CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE NOVEMBER 11, 1991 $2.25

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CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE NOVEMBER 11 1991 VOL 104 NO 45

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COVER PHOTO BY CFTO-TV/CANWIDE



COVER

## WOMEN IN FEAR

*In Manitoba, where three women have died at the hands of husbands or lovers since Oct. 12, the government pledged to act on a new report that calls for sweeping changes in the way the justice system deals with domestic violence. The demand for change is nationwide, as Canadians take account of a torrent of similar assaults committed against women by men—and demand action.* — 26

ROYALTY

## A ROYAL CANADIAN SWEEP

*For millions of Canadians, the seven-day tour of Ontario by Prince Charles and Diana, Princess of Wales, was a chance to glimpse one of the world's most closely watched couples and reflect on their commitment, humor and graciousness. An eight-page photo album details their visit.* — 64





WORLD

## THE GREAT DIVIDE

*For three days in Madrid, Arabs and Israelis met in an attempt to end 43 years of conflict in the Middle East. But Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara heaped abuse on each other, and delegates cautioned that the road to peace will be strewn with obstacles.* — 36

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# A Tragic Social Flaw

On Dec 6, women's groups and sympathizers across the nation will seek to focus their fellow Canadians' minds on the issue of violence against women. It was on that day two years ago that a lone gunman, Marc Lépine, 25, stalked the halls of the University of Montreal engineering school and murdered 14 women in cold blood. Before opening fire in one classroom, Lépine shouted "You're all a bunch of feminists, and I hate feminists."

Since Lépine's bloody rampage, governments and private organizations have sought to address the violence that many Canadian women suffer daily at the hands of men—from spousal assault to rape and murder. A Commons subcommittee, provincial ministers for the status of women, a Newfoundland women's group and the National Association of Women and the Law have all released reports documenting brutality—and demanding action. Last week, a report on domestic violence commissioned by Manitoba's justice minister weighed in with more evidence.

Starting in January, Canadians will be consulted intensively on the issue. It is a critically important subject: historically, around 60 per cent of female homicide victims in Canada are killed by current or former husbands or boyfriends, and annually 10 per cent of Canadian women are physically or sexually assaulted by intimate partners. A federally appointed panel of eight women and one man is to begin a year of hearings in about 100 communities. It is an opportunity for men, as well as women, to deal with an unacceptable situation. Associate Editor Brian Bergman, who wrote this week's main cover story, said that he was most impressed by the number of women experts in domestic violence who pleaded for men to take a more active role in ending the savagery. Added Bergman: "Because men are the main perpetrators, we have a unique obligation to condemn it and to help raise our children in a way that may end the cycle of brutality."



ERIN ELDER/MACLEAN'S

*Shelter for women in Toronto: a chance for men as well as women to deal with the issue*

Kevin Doyle

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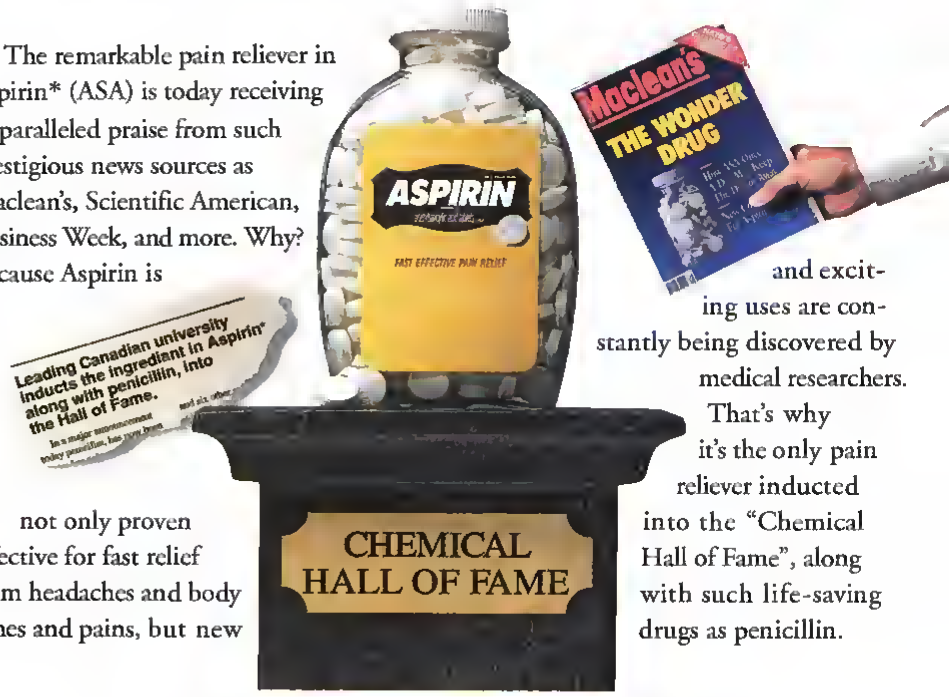
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# LETTERS

## A FORCE FOR NATIONALISM

Three cheers for *Maclean's*! For once, we get a look at one of the few symbols of Canadian nationalism ("The crusading royals," Cover, Oct. 28). If our dominion is to survive the onslaught of continentalism and Quebec separatism, it must rally to what is truly Canadian. Canada is a monarchy. Must we sell out our past through ignorance and apathy? To do so would be to stop being Canadian, for in Canada, "Freedom wears a crown."

*Scott Hicks,*
*Hamilton*

Having met Diana, the Princess of Wales, at Science North in Sudbury during her and Prince Charles's recent visit to Ontario, I and all those who saw her found her to be very beautiful and pleasant—contrary to your remarks about her big nose, angular frame and slouching posture. Is there not enough criticism in this world concerning the physical appearance of women? Your comments were another example of society's obsession with the ideal body.

*Melanie Checkeris,*
*Sudbury, Ont.*

## MEASURING METHODOLOGY

In "A measure of excellence" (Special Report, Oct. 21), you had some nice things to say about our co-operative education program, but then went on to do the University of Waterloo considerable harm by misusing statistics in your ranking exercise. Your data included our off-campus co-op and correspondence students to calculate residence beds per student. As one criterion, namely how many foreign students enrolled, you counted as a liability our co-op enrolment (10,000) even though visa students do not participate because of the work requirement. One can only hope that, if there is a next time, the controls on your methodology are more exacting.

*Douglas T. Wright,*
*President, University of Waterloo,*
*Waterloo, Ont.*

I read with interest "Choosing the American way" in your special report. My son took the Scholastic Aptitude Test in his high-school junior year and scored so high that 80 U.S. schools contacted him. He chose to attend Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. During the period of test-taking and university visits, we never heard from *one* Canadian university representative. That makes me wonder: just how important are our young people in the whole system of higher education, and are we backing our beliefs with action?

*Sully Yankovich,*
*Calgary*



CHRIS SCHWARZ/MACLEAN'S

*Diana in Sudbury: 'truly Canadian'*

I write to congratulate you on your assessment of the state of universities in Canada and especially on your choice of criteria for judging these institutions. I suggest that you turn your attention next to sewage treatment plants, where your criteria will prove particularly appropriate. There you could examine the quality of the effluent that flows into each plant and not bother with the sweetness of the water that comes out.

*W. J. Howard,*
*Head, Department of English,*
*University of Regina,*
*Regina*

## A LESSON IN COMPASSION

Both the federal and the provincial governments are taking the issue of violence against women seriously. So should Barbara Amiel ("The noise of women's turmoil," Column, Oct. 28). Certainly, as Amiel argues, the building of personal character is of value. But her belief that having character is the only answer to life is far too simplistic. All over this country, people are taking personal responsibility to heal themselves—to speak out against abuse. No one should be silenced or ridiculed for speaking their truth. To watch daily, as I do, the courage of women and children as they struggle to overcome the violence perpetrated against them in our society is a humbling experience—one that Amiel needs. She needs to learn compassion.

*Carol Ward-Hall,*
*Executive director,*
*North Shore Crisis Services Society,*
*North Vancouver*

# PASSAGES

**RESIGNED:** Zambia's veteran President **Kenneth Kaunda**, 67, after an overwhelming election defeat at the hands of opposition leader **Frederick Chiluba**'s Movement for Multiparty Democracy. Kaunda is the most senior African statesman to have been upset in a popular vote—elections that he made possible by abolishing 17 years of one-party rule late last year. His United National Independence Party had held power for all 27 years of the country's independence. Chiluba, 46, was sworn in on Saturday. He inherits a massive majority in the 150-seat parliament, and a virtually bankrupt economy. Zambia, with a population of 7.8 million, has a foreign debt of more than $8 billion.



CHRISTIAN SIMONPIETRI/SYGMA

**DIED:** Former Royal Bank of Canada chairman **W. Earle McLaughlin**, 76, after a lengthy illness, at a Montreal hospital. McLaughlin joined the bank in 1936 and was president between 1960 and 1979.

**DIED:** Former national team gymnast **Sherry Hawco Delanty**, 27, of breast cancer, at home in Cambridge, Ont. Delanty competed for Canada at the 1978 Commonwealth Games and 1979 World Gymnastics Championships.

**DIED:** New York City theatre producer **Joseph Papp**, 70, of cancer, at his home in Greenwich Village. Papp staged such hugely popular productions as *A Chorus Line*, Broadway's longest-running musical, and the 1967 counterculture hit *Hair*. As well, he founded the New York Shakespeare Festival, with its traditional summer performances in Central Park.

**RESIGNED:** CTV News managing director **John Macfarlane**, 49, 13 months after taking the job. The former publisher of *Saturday Night* magazine left CTV to concentrate on his firm Macfarlane Walter & Ross, which recently published *Mulroney: The Politics of Ambition*, by **John Sawatsky**.

**WON:** By *Maclean's*, two Authors Awards at a ceremony in Ottawa on Oct. 28. Presented by the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters, the awards recognized journalistic enterprise for *Maclean's* special issues on the environment (Sept. 17, 1990) and the Constitution (July 1, 1991).

# LETTERS

## SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE

I am in a state of disbelief over the fact that Clarence Thomas was confirmed by the U.S. Senate for a position on the Supreme Court ("Tainted victory," World, Oct. 28). Stunningly, a man who clearly had a tremendous motivation to lie succeeded in characterizing himself as the victim, at the expense of a fully credible woman, Anita Hill, who had nothing to gain by coming forward. Not only did cheap racial and partisan politics effectively obscure the real victim, but many members of the Senate reflected some of society's most hurtful sexist attitudes, instead of rising above them.

*David Haas,*
*Victoria*

At his confirmation hearings, Clarence Thomas accused committee members or their staffs of leaking Anita Hill's sexual-harassment complaint against him to the media. He then charged that racism lay behind the senators' opposition to his confirmation. He made both allegations without producing a single shred of evidence. Now that he is on the Supreme Court, Americans can only hope that his standards improve.

*James Grieshaber-Otto,*
*Ottawa*

## A CONSTITUTIONAL QUAGMIRE

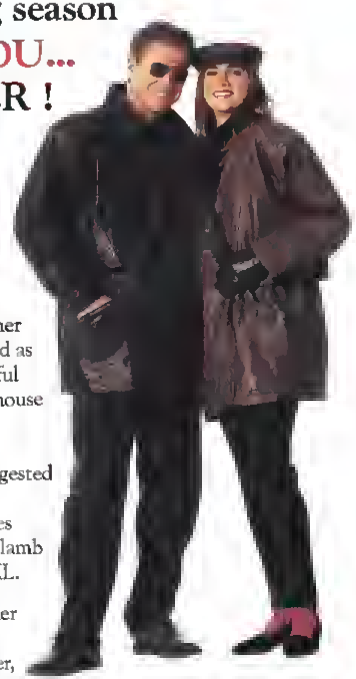
Your recent coverage of the new government proposals for the future of the Constitution was commendable ("Brave new words," Cover, Oct. 7). It revealed the extent to which Canada has been a terminal crisis waiting to happen. Instead of tackling fundamental faults in the country's constitutional setup, the government has simply been tinkering with an outdated machine. We need, among other things, one national identity wherein multiculturalism is a servant, not a master. In any country, there must exist homogeneity: without it, a nation will eventually either disintegrate or sink into confusion and Third World status—which is just where we are headed.

*Tom Piggott,*
*Penticton, B.C.*

I am unconvinced that any document can solve our constitutional problems. The protection and promotion that Quebec desires is ultimately not subject to legislation. Language and culture live in people's hearts, and I think history will show that their preservation and promulgation cannot be legislated. If anything, legal protection would weaken the language and culture of Quebec, for complacency would overtake its guardianship. And if it did survive, it would not be a lively, burgeoning force.

*Eric Pedersen,*
*Millet, Alta.*


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# LETTERS

## A PRINCE OF THRIFT

After reading "The private life of Canada's richest man" (Cover, Peter C. Newman, Oct. 14), I would not begrudge Ken Thomson a penny of his billions. Nor can any Canadian pass judgment on his personal frugality; surely, that is a matter of personal taste. But what can be said in defence of Thomson's shameful tight-fistedness on matters charitable? With wealth there should come some sense of public duty and obligation. And on the basis of Newman's article, Thomson feels none. He boasts that there is not a publishing enterprise he could not buy. Great. There also is not a single cause—cultural, social or medical—that he could not have a titanic impact upon. Could not a man who showed such admirable compassion for a dog spare some for the thousands of Canadian children whose next meal is coming from a food bank?

*David Basskin,*
*Toronto*

So Ken Thomson apparently will give money to the Toronto General Hospital only if the hospital will build a veterinary wing? I am sure that there are a lot of parents who would give their lives in order that their children could receive the best available medical care. Personally, I find it offensive that animals could ever take precedence over human beings.

*Brian Frawley,*
*Toronto*

I found "The private life of Canada's richest man" to be unjust and unkind, portraying Ken Thomson as a rather petty and parsimonious eccentric. Might not such values as staying at home speak of a love of home and family, concern for one's dog speak of a love of animals, and a lack of freewheeling spending speak of frugality and sound financial management—values that retain their virtue in any day and age?

*Rev. Hans Kouwenberg,*
*Prince George, B.C.*

I take my hat off to Canada's richest man, who employs 105,000 people on four continents. Whether I keep my hat off or put it back on will depend on the amount of income tax that he pays to Revenue Canada—information that was omitted from your cover package.

*John S. Nielsen,*
*Calgary*

## THE CHILL OF VICTORY

Your article about Frank Stronach, the chairman of Magna International Inc., detailed the company's impressive recovery under his capable guidance ("Defying the odds," Business, Oct. 7). However, I was left wondering who the real hero was. Stronach, who is no longer the country's highest-paid executive, the 300 managers and administrative staff who were fired, the workers formerly managed by the above, and currently laid off when 36 factories were closed, or Canadian taxpayers, who now provide a minimal level of food, clothing and shelter through unemployment insurance cheques to those workers unable to find jobs.

*John Frey,*
*Calgary*



REDMAN/FINANCIAL POST

*Thomson (left) with chief strategist John Tory: frugality is a matter of personal taste*

## MUSIC TO THE EARS

Congratulations for a superb and enlightening article on the Canadian rock group Rush ("Rock 'n' roll royalty," Music, Sept. 30). This extremely talented trio has enjoyed unsurpassed international success, continues to release album after album of great music, puts on one heck of a live show and yet has never quite managed to get the well-deserved respect its members have worked so hard for. Unfortunately, the group is largely ignored by the Canadian media, so it was a great surprise to open up *Maclean's* and see the group featured. To Alex Lifeson, Neil Peart and Geddy Lee: thanks for all of your much-appreciated work.

*Linda Richardson,*
*Beamsville, Ont.*

## POLITICAL PUNDITRY

Peter C. Newman concludes in "Reinventing a country with sour expectations" that "no politician... should be allowed to tell a bad joke, smoke or drink, or commit a single indiscretion" (Business Watch, Oct. 14). This is as dumb as the criteria that he characterizes. Canadians' widespread disillusion with their political establishment has little connection with certain politicians' reputed taste for booze and fornication. It emerges, much more seriously, from our understanding of how—and why—generations of our representatives landed us in a mess they can no longer deny. We also recognize, and reject, the use of our taxes to buy electoral favor with unwarranted benefits to minority and regional interests. Quebec, which is seen as getting more federal handouts than other provinces, is the most obvious beneficiary, but others are not hard to find.

*David Cobain,*
*Rose Bay, N.S.*

Peter C. Newman's Oct. 14 column tragically demonstrates the ignorance of both journalists and pollsters about their role in the disintegration of the country. The polls keep asking destructive questions and getting destructive answers. The journalists keep reporting the destructive answers and the cycle starts anew. The sour expectations of Canadians could be reversed if the ladies and gentlemen of the media could learn to ask a Socratic question.

*Michael Brooker,*
*Montreal*

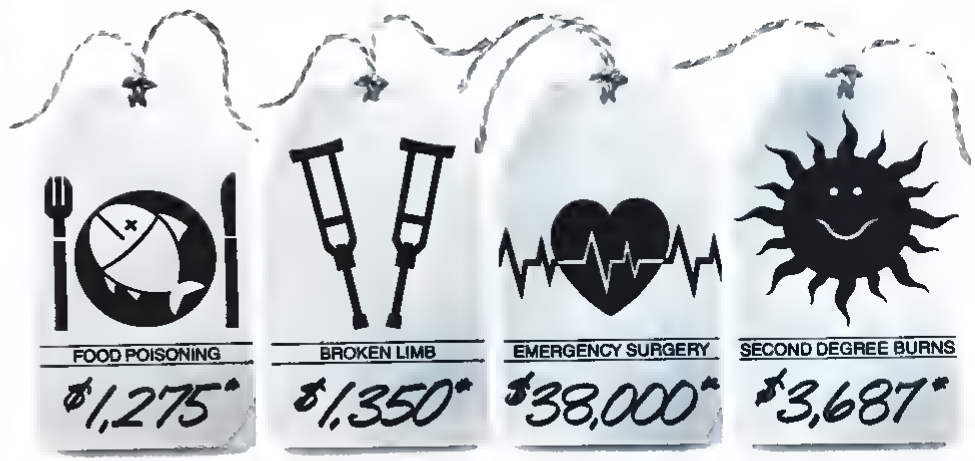
## A SEMANTIC MINEFIELD

I was astonished upon reading your article about the race for the Louisiana governorship, "Echoes of the KKK" (World, Oct. 7), by the explanation of the word "cajun" as "a local pronunciation for the Acadians who *came* from Atlantic Canada in the late 1700s." How can an article about racism use the word "came" instead of "were deported," as if describing an insignificant event? The deportation of French-speaking Acadians is one of the most racist events in North American history.

*Raymond Brunet,*
*Chelsea, Que.*




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# LETTERS

## OF GUTS AND GUILE

In his Nov. 12, 1984, column, "The secret source of power," Allan Fotheringham wrote that "Saskatchewan's biggest export remains brains." Now, in his Oct. 21 column, "Of flat prairie and true guts," he writes that the main export of my home province is "guts" and that brains come from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. What happened? Perhaps Fotheringham should credit "all the great ones" with also having excellent memories.

*D. J. Owens,*
*Ottawa*

## PRESCIENT PROBLEMS

Charles Gordon hits the nail dead centre in "Stop the debate—and start governing" when he states that the Mulroney government would best serve the country's interests if it spent more time and energy—and hopefully less money—on attacking the country's social problems, such as poverty, unemployment and pollution (Column, Oct. 14). It is waging a battle on constitutional reform and could win the war in due time, but it could also be condemned to lose the peace on our home front. Continuing neglect to confront the myriad of these ever-worsening problems will eventually leave Canada in a sad state.

*Robert Lozier,*
*Rouyn-Noranda, Que.*

## A TAXING DILEMMA

Enough Canada-bashing Americans in Canada acknowledge the safety, cleanliness and peace of the country ("A swelling exodus," Immigration, Sept. 30) I believe that it is the social conscience reflected in the safety nets paid for with higher taxes that helps to make Canada the gentler society that Americans claim to want, but appear unwilling to pay for. Perhaps it is more relevant to say that Americans are undertaxed relative to their desired quality of life than it is to say that Canadians are overtaxed.

*Dennis Phillips,*
*Queretaro, Mexico*

## MISTAKEN IDENTITY

In your Sept. 23 theatre review of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical *Aspects of Love*, you refer to the star of the show as Keith *Mitchell*. The last time I looked, his name was Keith *Michell*.

*Dave Robertson*
*Oakville, Ont.*

*Letters may be condensed. Please supply name, address and daytime telephone number. Write: Letters to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, Maclean Hunter Bldg., 777 Bay St., Toronto, Ont. M5W 1A7. Or fax: (416) 596-7730.*

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# OPENING NOTES

Parker makes pens from Pershing 2s, Matthew Barrett banks on Canadian writers, and Paul Tellier receives a snub

## A BANK'S NEW BRAINCHILD



BRIAN WILEY/MACLEAN'S

*Barrett: no ordinary bookkeeper*

**The Bank of Montreal is going literary with its next annual report in January. In addition to the usual facts and figures, bank officials confirm that the 1991 report will include eight 500-word essays written by prominent Canadian authors, including W. O. Mitchell and Thomson Highway. Neither Bank of Montreal spokesman Brian Smith nor author Barry Callaghan, the editor of the special literary supplement, would divulge specific details about the essays. Smith would say only that the pieces are thematically linked. But people involved in the project suggested that its aim would be to promote national enity. Whatever their content, the musings will likely pay well. One source told *Maclean's* that each writer will receive a fee of $3,000, or $6 a word. Smith, who declined to confirm the figures, noted that the unusual package is the brainchild of Bank of Montreal chairman Matthew Barrett. A longtime patron of the arts, the Irish-born Barrett has taken an increasingly higher profile on the Canadian publishing scene. Last month, he hosted a party at the bank's Toronto head office to help launch CBC TV anchorman Knowlton Nash's new book, *Visions of Canada*, a collection of 45 interviews with such well-known Canadians as musician Oscar Peterson and pollster Allan Gregg. Said Smith: "All I want to say at this point is that it's a novel approach to an annual report and an exciting way to celebrate the start of our 175th anniversary next year."**

## *Peacemaking and penmanship*

A recent deal between Parker Pen USA Ltd. and the Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief has given new meaning to the term "meltdown." Soviet and American defence departments are providing the memorial fund with metal from decommissioned Pershing 2 and Soviet SS-20 missiles that the Janesville, Wisc.-based Parker company is turning into pens. They are going on sale in the United States this week. A ballpoint costs $200 and a fountain pen, $345. For $545, collectors can buy a boxed set. Parker says that it will donate half the proceeds to the memorial fund. Robert Walker, director of marketing at Parker USA, pointed out that Gen. Douglas MacArthur used his own Parker pen to sign the treaty that ended the war in the Pacific in 1945, and presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan used Parkers to sign the first nuclear arms reduction treaty in Washington in 1987. Said Walker: "There's a strong relationship between Parker Pens and peace treaties." He added: "Now, Parker pens are helping to transform missiles into symbols of peace." The pen may yet be mightier than the sword.



DPD/SAMMA-UNION

*Pershing 2: recycled cruise missiles*

## THE BEAUTY OF PROGRESS

***China, the notion that gave the world the epitome of unisex apparel—the Chairman Mao jacket—has allowed swimsuits in a beauty contest for the first time since 1949. Last week, contestants paraded before an audience that included Pierre Cardin and Gerald William Ford, head of the New York City-based Ford modelling agency. The winner will go to next year's Supermodel of the World contest in Los Angeles. Said one contestant, a daughter of a government official: "China's ideas are not as feudal as before. It's OK to look prettier now."***



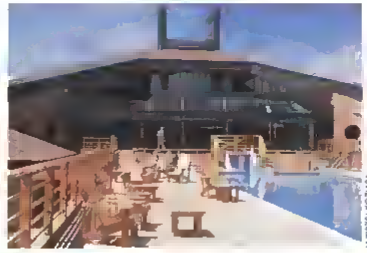

*Wrigley's ad: a genuine effort to show Canada's racial diversity*

## A CONTROVERSY OVER COLOR

Recent events in Nova Scotia have made some Haligonians extra-sensitive about racial issues. Indeed, a single written complaint about the current transit ad created by Baker Lovick, Toronto, for Wrigley Canada Inc., convinced Metro Transit to remove the ad from Halifax buses. The ad depicts four boys of various races. The black child has a stick of Juicy Fruit gum on his baseball cap, and the tag line states: "Taste that sticks out." Laura Welner, a white Dalhousie University student, was the one to complain about the ad. Said Welner: "I felt it was very offensive. People of any color should not be distinguished in a crowd for being different." Said transit spokesman Lori Patterson: "We concurred that the ad might be offensive to some." And the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission called the ad "borderline." But Suzanne Keeler, vice-president of the Canadian Advertising Foundation, said that the ad is "not offensive." She added that Wrigley should be applauded for "making a genuine effort to portray Canada's diversity in their advertising—an approach long sought by activist groups." And Mary Griffith, marketing manager for Wrigley, said: "We never thought this ad would be misconstrued."

## *Snubbing Paul Tellier*

***Ottawa sources say that Privy Council Clerk Paul Tellier asked for a copy of the Economic Council of Canada's annual report, which included a section on sovereignty-association, 10 days before its release. The council refused his request for the federally funded study, but someone with access provided an advance copy to Montreal's La Presse. Tellier's office declined to comment. But staff at the PCO are "spitting bullets," said one highly placed source, who added: "It is astonishing that a senior PCO official would ask for such a document and be turned down."***



ANDREW KOLOMA

*King Ranch: a monument to the health craze*

## A last resort for fitness

When the King Ranch Health Spa & Fitness Resort opened in June, 1990, it was an opulent symbol of a raging fitness boom. Set on 177 wooded acres 32 km north of Toronto, the $45-million facility offers guests willing to pay up to $1,700 for a 10-day stay the latest in exercise equipment, classes, pampering and nutrition. It features a bar that serves no liquor—only mineral water and various fruit and vegetable juices. But from the beginning, rumors of financial difficulties have plagued the spa. Now, an executive with Hotel Inter-Continental in Toronto has told *Maclean's* that her parent company, Inter-Continental Hotels, is interested in a joint venture with King Ranch. If that happens, the London-based chain of 106 hotels will likely change the so-called dry bar to an alcohol bar, the executive added. For his part, King Ranch president Adam Koffler was adamant that the resort is not for sale. But he acknowledged that King Ranch is currently considering a restructuring deal with "several interested parties"—including Inter-Continental Hotels. The result could turn water into wine.

## *TEEING OFF FOR A DEGREE*

**A shortage of professionals at America's 13,951 golf courses has led Pennsylvania State University to offer a bachelor of science degree in leisure studies, with an emphasis on golf management, this fall. Said program co-ordinator Frank B. Guadagnolo: "With a new golf course opening every day in the United States, it's estimated that the demand for golf management professionals won't be met until at least 2020." To earn the degree, students must have a handicap of eight or lower. There are seminars on golf-club repair and golf-cart maintenance—and even lessons in mixing drinks. Declared Guadagnolo: "We are tapping into an area of great interest to students exploring careers in recreation and hospitality." Suits them to a tee.**

## SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET

There seems to be a touch of blarney in Ronald Reagan's fierce Irishness. The former president has always invoked his Irish heritage with pride (most notably during the two Shamrock Summits of 1985 and 1987 with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney). He is also proud of his Scottish roots, and last week *The Sunday Times* of London reported that "his bloodline led back to a Scottish radical sentenced to death for treason." According to the *Times*, a distant relative on his mother's side was a Scottish revolutionary named David Downie, who fled Scotland in the 18th century. But Downie's daughter and Reagan's great-great-grandmother Peggy settled in the Scottish town of Paisley, 10 km west of Glasgow. For his part, Reagan seems to be taking his tarnished heritage in stride. He and his wife, Nancy, even paid a private visit to Paisley last month.



*Reagan: a new, radical lineage*



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# Comeuppance for a Kennedy

*BY FRED BRUNING*

Anita Hill says Clarence Thomas spoke to her of dirty movies. He becomes a Supreme Court justice. She returns to academia. Teddy Kennedy repents.

The Hill-Thomas controversy was perhaps most memorable in that final aspect—the cruel, consummate and inevitable comeuppance of Edward M. Kennedy. As Anita Hill levelled charges of sexual harassment, as Clarence Thomas shrewdly ducked her allegations, as Republican snipers fired at will, as Democrats cowered in a corner, as witnesses floated one crackpot theory after another (woman scorned, woman crazed, woman on the make), there sat the senior senator from Massachusetts as though cut loose from the world—a sad and distracted soul, his handsomeness now only faintly sketched under mottled skin, the fire doused, the eyes averted, the tongue mostly stilled.

*Before us appeared the man undone by the perils of plenty and the temptations of privilege, by booze and sleek women*

That image of Kennedy on national television was the clincher. Before us appeared the man undone, not by bullets from a mail-order rifle or a fanatic's pistol, nor even by ceaseless right-wing slander, but by the mere occupational hazards of life in America, by the perils of plenty and the temptations of privilege, by the booze and sleek women and the buzz of power and the howl of the crowds and the awful, irresistible extravagance of it all.

This is what we sell 24 hours a day. It is what we tell our kids in beer ads and blue-jean commercials and mindless movies about millionaires and their streetwalker girlfriends—that it's all OK, that anything goes, that you're No. 1, that history is dead, that tomorrow is for saps, that nothing is worth the wait, that those who collect the most toys win, that we are a tribe of takers and too bad for the rest. No pain, no gain? Who says?

Teddy Kennedy ran the streak as long as he could. Chappaquiddick denied him the presidency so he settled for the Senate. Over 29 years, he earned respect as a legislator and became the most durable liberal presence on Capitol Hill. But he was careless with the franchise. If he had a reputation as a tough negotiator and skilled lawmaker, there were less salutary assessments too. Teddy on a tear? Wasn't Teddy always?

Then comes Easter in Palm Beach. William Kennedy Smith, Teddy's nephew, picks up a woman in a bar and she later claims rape. There are stories about Teddy Kennedy drinking with his son, Patrick, and Willie Smith before the woman arrives. There is talk about Kennedy loping through the family mansion minus his trousers. He has no worry about the rape charges, but the whole thing looks bad—another of Ted's embarrassing adventures. Not much Kennedy says by way of explanation sounds convincing. Mostly, what he says sounds pathetic.

Coast to coast, he is a joke. The late-night comedians love it. The cartoonists go crazy. Teddy Kennedy, fat, foolish and out of control. Then arrives the Clarence Thomas business.

George Bush nominates to the Supreme Court a fellow with one year's experience on the federal bench and the judicial insights of a kick boxer. Because he will do most anything to assure himself another four years in the role of Preppy Who Rules the Universe, Bush denies that the Thomas nomination is an issue of race and insists, on the contrary, that Thomas simply is the best person in the country for the job. Oh, Thomas is black? Oh, he would take the place of another black, the retired Thurgood Marshall? Pure coincidence.

This is one slick play. Now Bush, who all the while is denouncing quotas and affirmative action, has the Democrats where he wants them. He senses many black Americans will endorse Thomas because, if you aren't white in this country, you better grab what comes along for fear of coming up empty. He knows that Thomas's weird conservatism will drive most Democrats crazy, but now these same Democrats in their fine suits and starched collars will have to explain to minority voters why Clarence Thomas, a black man, happens not to be the *right* black man for the job. Beautiful.

It gets better. There are whispers about Thomas and a problem he may have had with a former assistant, a woman named Anita Hill. Reporters nose around and, finally, the story breaks. Anita Hill, a law professor in Oklahoma, says she was hounded in most unacceptable fashion by Clarence Thomas, who, by now, looks like a sure thing for the country's highest court.

Hearings reopen, the Republicans annihilate Anita Hill, and the one person who might save her, Teddy Kennedy, utters barely a word because this is a matter involving a man and a woman, and Teddy Kennedy long ago has lost the right to comment. Later, on the Senate floor, Kennedy makes a little speech and Republicans eat him alive. Orrin Hatch from Utah mentions Chappaquiddick. Hatch is supposed to be Kennedy's friend.

In late October, Kennedy reclaimed his dignity, and maybe more than that. He went to Harvard for a political address but the mission had a personal side. The senator said he knew he had let people down, the people in this society who need him most, and that, pushing 60, he had to take stock. "I recognize my own shortcomings—the faults in the conduct of my private life," Kennedy said. "I realize that I alone am responsible for them, and I am the one who must confront them."

Yes, a poll showed Kennedy with a disastrous public-approval rating and, yes, he faces re-election in 1994 and yes, of course, his remarks played to those concerns. But no one goes back to his alma mater and stands before an audience of young people and admits he is a flawed and hurting person unless he is trying desperately to get well.

Some thought Kennedy was going to resign on the spot. Instead, he pulled himself up and talked about education, and health insurance and gun control. He said a new civil rights bill was a "well-deserved defeat for those who would misuse race as a political weapon." He talked, as well, about equal treatment for women and did not hesitate to use the words "sexual harassment." This was Kennedy as he was supposed to be—assured, up-front, aggressive—but the speech came too late for Anita Hill. Does time remain for Teddy Kennedy?

*Fred Bruning is a writer with Newsday in New York.*

# THE PHOENIX OF THE TORY PARTY

***JOE CLARK HAS OVERCOME SCORN AND VILIFICATION TO BECOME ONE OF CANADA'S MOST POPULAR LEADERS***

Joe Clark stepped up to the podium in the auditorium of Toronto's Upper Canada College—and told his audience a story. Last May, he began, two weeks after he was handed the constitutional affairs portfolio, he travelled to Iqualuit, N.W.T. The former prime minister of Canada—who until just before then had been serving in the high-profile post of External Affairs—learned from his Inuit hosts that his name has no counterpart in their language, Inuktitut. "My job involves some indignities," he explained to the students, parents and teachers assembled for the private school's prize day on Oct. 18. "They told me they did have their own name for me," Clark continued modestly. "And although I cannot pronounce it, it means 'Little Chin.' " A murmur of embarrassed laughter drifted through the hall. "Now, I have to make it clear when I am travelling the country, talking about these constitutional proposals, I am talking on behalf of 'Big Chin,' too." The audience burst into shocked laughter and applause.

Big Chin refers, of course, to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the square-jawed Quebec businessman who wrested the leadership of the Progressive Conservative party from Clark in 1983. Mulroney has entrusted his government's most important task to his former rival. Clark's job: to sell the government's 28 constitutional proposals to a public suspicious of politicians and fed up with the national unity debate. As the federal cabinet minister with the highest standing in public opinion polls—Clark enjoys a 50-per-cent approval rating, compared with Mulroney's own dismal 15 per cent—he seems ideally suited to the job. But there is more to Joe Clark than his devotion to duty, the skilled diplomacy that he demonstrated as external affairs minister and the humility and self-deprecating humor that he now uses in his public speeches to win support—if not necessarily adherents—for the government's constitutional point of view.

At 52, Clark is a complex and intelligent man who says that he has come to terms with the bitterness in his past. He was just 36 when he won the Tory leadership in 1976, so little known nationally that he gained the nickname "Joe Who." Three years later, he became Prime Minister, but after only nine months he was "Joe Where"—back in opposition as Pierre Trudeau's Liberals swept back into power in March, 1980. In a further humiliation, he lost his leadership after a party convention three years later expressed limited confidence in him. Throughout that period, he was vilified mercilessly by political foes and in the media as a clumsy, weak leader. Since then, his professionalism on the job, particularly in External Affairs from 1984 until last April, has helped him to undergo a remarkable transformation. Now, he is widely perceived as one of the country's eminent statesmen. Still, many Canadians know little about the man who is playing a vital role in the fight for the survival of their nation.

He is full of contradictions. For all his humble charm and folksy mannerisms, Clark is a fiercely partisan politician who can cut his opponents to the quick in the House of Commons. Those who know him describe Clark as personally generous, extremely talented—and a difficult, demanding boss for his staff. He enjoys detective novels, magazines, short stories and, during his travels, long walks through busy cities.

Clark is also renowned for his taste—or lack of it—in food. As he told *Maclean's*, "I am the opposite of a gourmet. I keep waiting for somebody to invent a pill which will let me have my lunch in a great hurry and get on with something." Conservative Senate Leader Lowell Murray, who has known Clark since 1962, confirms the worst. Said Murray: "I would worry about him if I were his wife or mother. I am sure that his diet is completely out of whack with what most of us would recognize as basic nutrition." Among Clark's culinary idiosyncrasies: eggs fried until the yolks are hard, steak burned to a crisp and cereal eaten dry out of the box. "He would eat steak every day of the week if he could," said Murray with a sigh. "I do not think Joe has ever eaten a whole fish."

Organizers of the Brooks, Alta., annual Chamber of Commerce dinner held early last month should have consulted Murray. Former president Glen Lyster, operating on information supplied by a Reform party supporter that Clark in fact ate no meat, arranged for the buffet to include a seafood dish. Lyster recalls his shock when his guest of honor returned to the head table "with the biggest piece of beef of anyone." Unable to restrain himself, Lyster said that he cried out: "What are you doing with that? I thought you were a vegetarian." Clark, a native of High River, Alta., and currently MP for Yellowhead riding northwest of Edmonton, has related the tale to Ontario audiences to show that while some Albertans think that he has lost touch with his roots—a sentiment fostered by the Reform party—in his heart, he remains a westerner. Said Clark: "The good thing I learned is the degree to which Reform has been successful in portraying me as someone from somewhere else."

The portrayal of Clark as a man who has lost touch with the West is unfair, says Murray, a Nova Scotia native who shared an



BRIAN WILLER/MACLEAN'S

***Clark in his Ottawa office: playing a vital role***

## National Notes

**THE COST OF SOVEREIGNTY**
Federal government spokesmen said that an economic study forecasting relatively small costs to Quebecers from separation was misleading because it ignored the possibility of an acrimonious split. The Economic Council of Canada concluded that sovereignty-association would cost the average Quebec family $1,800 a year for a generation. Separatist leaders said that the report legitimized their cause.

**STRAIT AHEAD**
The federal government released a cabinet order allowing U.S. vessels, including nuclear submarines, to pass through the Dixon Entrance, a Pacific Ocean strait between the Queen Charlotte Islands and the Alaska Panhandle that both Canada and the United States claim.

**FRESH FACES**
Saskatchewan's new NDP premier, Roy Romanow, sworn in last week, appointed a cabinet that included four women—a record number for the province. As well, six of the cabinet's 11 members are rookie MLAs, which Romanow acknowledged "may be a little risky."

**BACK TO WORK**
Canadian Union of Postal Workers president Jean-Claude Parrot called off a postal strike just hours after it began, after reaching an agreement with federal Labor Minister Marcel Danis. Announced just before back-to-work legislation was to receive final parliamentary approval, the settlement provides postal workers with a pay increase averaging 10 per cent. Remaining contractual issues between the union and Canada Post go to arbitration.

**FIGHTING WORDS**
Avie Bennett, president of Toronto publishing house McClelland & Stewart, presented two boxes of books—the company's entire fall list—to North Vancouver Tory MP Charles (Chuck) Cook. A member of the Commons communications and culture committee, Cook opposes government subsidies to publishers because, he claims, too few Canadians read books. The MP examined the 36 books, but said: "I don't think my mind has changed."

**CHRETIEN'S SECOND LANGUAGE**
Jean Chrétien's office acknowledged that, for several months, the federal Liberal leader has been taking English lessons two or three times a week. "It's no big deal—he just wants to speak better English," said one Chrétien aide. The Liberal leader has often made fun of his difficulty with English.

Ottawa apartment with Clark in the 1960s. One of the first things that drew him to Clark, he says, was the latter's ability to explain western Canadian culture to him. And Murray says that Clark has not lost his ability to understand the West—even after almost two decades in Ottawa. Declared the senator: "To this day, I think that his reading of the political opinion in Western Canada is far more profound than you would get from a lot of other sources."

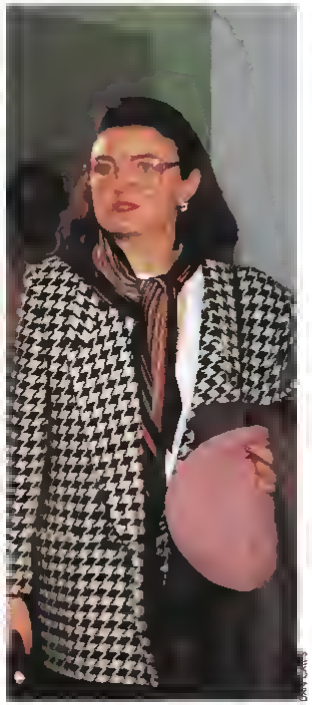
Still, Clark has drawn criticism in the West for his openness towards Quebec. Through tutors, classes, cassettes and writing exercises, Clark painstakingly developed a working—though heavily accented—knowledge of French. And in Quebec, where he routinely appears on French-language television and radio news shows, his efforts are clearly appreciated. Declared MNA François Gendron, the deputy leader of the Parti Québécois: "He still has trouble with his French. But it is as though Quebecers say, 'It doesn't matter. It's Joe. We know he likes us. He's made the effort.' " Clark also scores well with Quebec critics for his consistent—and tolerant—vision of Quebec's place in Canada, in contrast to what many of them regard as Mulroney's shifting positions on the subject. Gendron, for one, calls Clark one of the "most credible" politicians from English Canada when it comes to "descriptions of the political reality of Quebec."

Clark's relationship with Quebec may not be as deeply rooted as that of Mulroney, a Quebec native born and raised in Baie-Comeau on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River. But in other respects, the two men have a remarkable amount in common. They were born less than three months apart—Mulroney on March 20, 1939, and Clark on June 5. Both were outstanding orators in their youth. Both attended law school and saw their grades suffer because of campus politics. Clark did not finish his degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax, while Mulroney left the school and took his law degree at Laval. They entered politics young and idolized Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Later, they both worked on Davie Fulton's 1967 leadership campaign. They married within 35 days of each other in 1973, Mulroney to Mila Pivnicki and Clark to Maureen McTeer. They vied for the Tory leadership in the 1970s, each has been leader and prime minister. Yet, says author John Sawatsky, who explores the relationship between the two rivals in his recent book, *Mulroney: The Politics of Ambition*, the two are "fundamentally different people."

Sawatsky said in an interview that Mulroney entered politics because he was ambitious and wanted power. Clark, on the other hand, "has a real sense of idealism that Mulroney doesn't have." At Conservative party conventions, Clark was usually to be found debating resolutions on the floor. Mulroney "didn't have time for that," said Sawatsky. "To him, it was a matter of hooking up with people."

Still, Clark is not a head-in-the-clouds idealist. Harry Near, a former campaign operations director for Mulroney and now a consultant, has known Clark since 1976. Near says that he has always admired Clark's intellect and has found him to be a generous, kind man. But, he also cautions, "He was no pussycat. None of these guys have these jobs if they are pussycats." And for his part, Murray acknowledges that Clark can get caught up in the sometimes acrimonious atmosphere of the House of Commons. Declares Murray: "He can be very partisan and very cutting, but I don't think he has ever been abusive in the House."

Others would disagree with that description. On March 21, 1990, after New Democrat House Leader Nelson Riis accused deputy



*McTeer: a changing relationship*

Speaker Andrée Champagne of partisanship, Clark yelled at him, then charged across the floor. Riis told reporters later that he was shocked when Clark, whom he had previously thought of as "wimpy," had to be restrained. Declared Riis: "When you're sitting in your seat and you see a person with eyes bulging out of his head, with the veins extending out of his forehead, completely flushed, flailing his hands, yelling at you in very uncomplimentary terms, I tell you, he looms large." That incident earned Clark the nickname "Ramjoe."

Still, for the most part, Clark leads a peaceful existence. He, his bilingual wife, McTeer, and daughter Catherine, 15, live across the Ottawa River from the capital in Aylmer, Que. Catherine attends an English-language private school, where her courses include French and Spanish. She takes Japanese lessons after school. When Clark speaks of her, he glows with pride and love. He relates that when she learned of his move from External Affairs to the national unity post, she quipped: "So long, Paris. Hello, Moose Jaw."

For her part, McTeer, who angered many conservatives in the 1970s when she opted to retain her own name after their marriage, is working on her master's degree in law at Dalhousie, travelling between there and Aylmer every weekend. But while Clark wears his wedding band and refers to his wife admiringly in his speeches and in interviews, some Ottawa observers say that their relationship appears to have changed since Clark lost the Tory leadership in 1983. Said Sawatsky: "It fell apart right after that. Formally, they're married, but it's not so much a marriage as it is an alliance, really."

For his part, Clark appears to have clearly resolved any lingering feelings of resentment he might have had for Mulroney over the leadership of the party. He told *Maclean's*: "What is the point of bitterness? I spoke to a native person the other day who told me of her experience with residential schools and how angry she had been for so long at a school system which, in effect, reviled her own culture and taught her to be uncomfortable in her own skin. Finally, she said to herself, 'My anger lets that past control me,' and she made a conscious decision to be free of her anger at the school system." Concluded Clark: "I suppose at some point I made a conscious decision not to live in the past. These things happen. You accept them and you go on with them." And he pointed out that he and Mulroney agree on most political matters: "Certainly we do—by and large—on constitutional questions." Their past rivalry, Clark says, was limited to "which of us should lead the Conservative party."

But the troublesome question of leadership arose again on Oct. 21, when it became known that Mulroney's name had been added to the list of candidates for the post of secretary general of the United Nations. As the Prime Minister made no move to end speculation over his intentions, many members of the Tory caucus made it clear that Clark would be their top choice to succeed Mulroney if he were to accept the post in New York City. Finally, last week, Mulroney ended the suspense with a firm declaration that he would not serve if chosen. And Clark insisted that his days of leading the Tory party are in the past. Declared Clark: "I've done that and I do not intend to do it again. There are other things I want to consider doing."

But the irony of Clark's current popularity—and Mulroney's lack of it—is inescapable. Clearly, many Canadians now hope that Clark's lessons have been well learned—and that they have provided him with the wisdom to succeed in the trying months to come.

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# The wild coast

## *Drug runners work the Atlantic connection*

Just after 2 a.m. on Oct. 27, on an isolated stretch of Nova Scotia's Highway 103 just 40 km west of Halifax, RCMP officers swooped. As a black dump truck headed east from a secluded stretch of shoreline, several carloads of officers forced the vehicle to pull over. After apprehending the driver, they looked into the back of the truck and found what they had been expecting: plastic-covered bales of hashish, almost three tons of it, with a street value that police put at about $45 million. The raid was the culmination of weeks of investigation by the RCMP and Halifax police. Within three days, 10 men, all of them Nova Scotians, had been charged as a result of the seizure. And Canada Customs officers impounded a Panamanian-registered freighter, forced into Halifax harbor by engine trouble, on suspicion of having unloaded the hashish shipment on Nova Scotia's South Shore.

It was the sixth large drug seizure in Nova Scotia in the past 18 months. But in spite of those successes, RCMP drug enforcement officers say that they are overwhelmed by the flow of drugs into the province. By their own estimates, they intercept less than 10 per cent of the narcotics smuggled into Nova Scotia. And, they add, the amount of drugs entering Canada through the East Coast has increased dramatically in recent years because of Washington's strict crackdown on drug smuggling along the eastern seaboard of the United States. That, according to police, has encouraged international drug cartels to transform isolated stretches of Nova Scotia's coastline into one of their main pipelines for moving drugs into North America. Declared Cpl. Daniel Duffy, a member of the RCMP's Coastal Watch program, which monitors marine drug smuggling in Nova Scotia: "This province is an open door for drug runners."

But the problem is not restricted to Nova Scotia. In April, 1989, police in neighboring New Brunswick made the largest cocaine seizure in Canadian history when they arrested two Colombians whose plane crashed outside Fredericton—carrying more than half a ton of high-grade cocaine. Last August on Prince Edward Island, authorities apprehended a truck carrying almost five tons of marijuana, and arrested 10 men in connection with the seizure. And in many ways, drug smuggling is the continuation of a long-established Maritime tradition. During the Prohibition era, Atlantic Canada emerged as one of the main supply routes for illicit alcohol destined for the United States. Smugglers handled thousands of boatloads in the provinces' many secluded harbors.

RCMP officers say that most of the illegal bounty now arriving in Atlantic Canada travels in nondescript coastal freighters—outfitted with state-of-the-art radar and navigational equipment. The mother ship usually stays outside of Canadian territorial waters, where the crew then transfers the cargoes of hashish, marijuana or cocaine to smaller craft—often local fishing boats—which move the drugs to shore. In Nova Scotia, the smugglers store their goods in any of the hundreds of tiny coves and inlets that mark the province's coastline. They then transport it by road to distribution centres in Ontario, Quebec and the United States. Explained Sgt. Gary Grant, co-ordinator of the RCMP's drug-awareness program in Nova Scotia: "These people have the money to buy the best equipment. They are extremely well organized and extremely sophisticated in their methods."

Still, Nova Scotia drug agents have enjoyed some success in dealing smugglers major setbacks in recent years. Last week's raid was the latest in a series of seizures in the province that began in May, 1990, when smugglers fled after being spotted by a fisherman. In the process,


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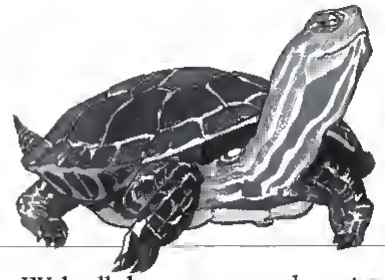
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they abandoned 35 tons of hashish with an estimated street value of about $525 million on a secluded beach near the tiny fishing village of East Berlin on the province's South Shore. Police are still investigating that incident—the second-largest hashish seizure ever in North America. As well, on July 30, 1990, the RCMP—with help from a naval destroyer and a coast guard cutter—struck again, arresting 16 men and seizing 20 tons of hashish worth an estimated $300 million in the sleepy Cape Breton fishing community of Baleine. And in April, RCMP officers charged 21 people in connection with a large shipload of cocaine from Colombia's infamous Medellín cartel that was destined for Yarmouth, N.S., but sank near Cape Race, Nfld., after hitting ice.

That flurry of drug-smuggling activity, Canadian drug enforcement officers say, is mainly the result of Washington's decision in the mid-1980s to vastly step up its efforts to reduce the flow of drugs into the United States. Those efforts have yielded some success: last year, American drug agents intercepted 222 million lb. of marijuana, compared with 3.5 million lb. in 1979. Declared Grant, "The drug cartels are unable to get into the United States, so they have simply redirected their cargoes to Atlantic Canada."

That has left Canadian drug enforcement authorities fighting a vastly unequal—and understaffed—battle against wealthy and powerful international drug barons. In fact, in Nova Scotia, only two RCMP officers work full time combing the province's coastline for drug shipments. As a result, the RCMP is forced to rely heavily on its Coastal Watch program, which encourages fishermen and others to call the force—anonymously if need be—about any suspicious activity that may be linked to the drug trade. Already, police say, a number of seizures have resulted from tips by Nova Scotians who have noticed unknown ships offshore or observed suspicious activities on isolated stretches of the coastline. "The old rumrunners were almost folk heroes in the small communities," said the RCMP's Duffy. "Most people don't feel any such kinship to this new generation of smugglers." But public sentiment alone has not been enough to stop the international drug cartels from turning Atlantic Canada into their newest North American transit route.




*Police with seized hashish: major pipeline*

**JOHN DeMONT** *in Halifax*


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# Death in the High Arctic

## *Thirteen people survive an air crash*

The arctic sky was clear and the temperature a seasonable -20° C in the middle of last week as the lumbering Canadian Forces C-130 Hercules transport with 18 people aboard roared aloft from the U S. air force base at Thule, on the northwest coast of Greenland. At 30,000 feet, Capt. John Couch, 32, levelled off and set course for Alert, a top-secret electronic-listening base on the northernmost tip of Ellesmere Island, 500 km closer to the North Pole. The planned flight was far removed from Couch's assignment earlier this year, piloting supply missions out of Qatar during the Gulf War. But just 20 km and fewer than 10 flying minutes out of Alert, something went tragically wrong. Couch radioed that his aircraft was in trouble. Moments later, it disappeared from radar screens.

Over the next two days, an Arctic drama of heroic proportions unfolded, as rescuers battled bone-rattling cold, 20-hour-a-day darkness and violent blizzards in order to reach the wreckage. When they finally did, they found 13 survivors huddled in the frozen fuselage. Couch was not among them: rescuers found his body still strapped into the cockpit, one of five people who did not survive the crash.

The dramatic rescue on the rooftop of the world emphasized the isolation of the remote Canadian base. Surrounded by rugged snow-covered hills and valleys and the icy expanse of the Arctic Ocean, just 600 km from the North Pole, Alert is the most northerly settlement in the world—far beyond the territory inhabited by natives. The department of national defence acquired the site, originally built in 1950 as a weather station, in 1958 and turned it into an electronic-listening post. Today, its sensitive antennas are still aimed at what used to be the Soviet superpower. Official documents describe the duties of the 200 national defence department employees permanently assigned to the base as "signals intelligence collection." In other words, the men and women assigned to Alert spend their time eavesdropping, 24 hours a day, on Soviet military and civilian communications.

Couch's flight last week was one of several shuttling supplies—everything from food to diesel fuel—to the base in an airlift that military planners named Operation Boxtop. Just one hour after Couch's distress message, a second Hercules, flying the same route and equipped with searchlights, spotted the downed plane's fuselage faintly outlined against the snow. Crew members of the second Hercules also reported that they had picked up faint radio signals from the crash site and from an emergency locator beacon. A third Canadian C-130 reached the area from Alert, but thick cloud cover and 65-km-an-hour winds that whipped the arctic snow into a blinding blizzard prevented rescuers from parachuting to the scene.

As the two Hercules circled over the wreckage, a 24-man ground rescue team left Alert to attempt to locate it in the darkness of the arctic night. Traveling in two tank-like all-terrain vehicles, the rescuers managed to reach a steep river valley near the area. But Maj. Donald Blair, the officer in charge of CFB Edmonton's search-and-rescue unit, said that they were unable to cross the valley. When they tried an alternative route, raging winds forced them to retreat to Alert. As the ground team regrouped, the blizzard intensified, forcing commanders to cancel two more overland attempts. Said Blair: "It would be foolhardy to go. You would just lose more people."

Meanwhile, inside the wrecked fuselage, Capt. Wilma Degrout, 26, a doctor stationed at CFB Trenton, who suffered a broken ankle in the wreck, moved carefully among the survivors. Working by flashlight, she used onboard medical supplies and survival kits to treat the living, who were suffering from lacerations, broken bones, burns and hypothermia. As the ferocious winds ripped through the wreckage, she tried to buoy the survivors' spirits. Even though everyone was wearing arctic survival suits, frostbite was setting in and Degrout knew that time was quickly running out.

Then, cloud cover over the wreckage finally broke just after midnight on Friday morning—roughly 40 hours after Couch's radio message. At that point, rescuers aboard one of the circling Hercules decided to attempt a breath-taking rescue. As the pilot brought the bulky plane to 5,000 feet above the wreckage, its crew dropped hundreds of titanium flares to illuminate the darkness below. Then, the pilot quickly moved the aircraft to an altitude of 1,500 feet, where a six-man medical crew, dressed in orange survival suits, parachuted into the teeth of a bowling wind. Minutes later, they reached the survivors in the twisted wreckage.

Two hours later, a bulldozer succeeded in clearing a path to the site for the all-terrain vehicles, bringing tents and heaters to the scene of the crash. The break in the weather also allowed helicopter crews to evacuate six critically injured survivors to Alert. From there, they flew aboard another Hercules to a U S. military hospital at Thule. On Saturday morning, Canadian Forces personnel airlifted six of the worst-injured to hospitals in Ottawa, the rest of the survivors were expected to be flown to Edmonton or the capital over the weekend. But for survivors and rescuers alike, the tense hours in which the weather had brought the search to a standstill had underscored the unforgiving supremacy of nature at the country's polar frontier.

**TOM FENNEL** *with*
*JOHN HOWSE in Edmonton*



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***C-130 Hercules at CFB Edmonton: blinding snow and a forbidding terrain frustrated rescuers***



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# WOMEN IN FEAR

## *EXPERTS ARE SEARCHING FOR THE KEY TO MEN'S REIGN OF TERROR AGAINST WOMEN*

It was a gruesome start to a week that shocked many Manitobans. Late on the evening of Saturday, Oct. 12, a young man wielding a machete entered the New York Burgers hamburger bar in Winnipeg's working-class North End, seized waitress Marilyn Jensen, 19, and pulled her towards a waiting car—pausing on his way to slash the cord of the restaurant's telephone. The following afternoon, Sunday strollers on the banks of the Red River at St. Andrews, just downriver from Winnipeg, spotted the severely mutilated body of a young woman floating in the water. It was Jensen's. Just four days later, police called to an address in the inner city of the Manitoba capital found the blood-soaked body of Clara Jane Harper, 50—stabbed to death with a knife from her own kitchen. Then, on Oct. 19, RCMP in Portage la Prairie, 80 km west of Winnipeg, discovered the battered remains of 43-year-old Diana Marie Hamm. The mother of two had been clubbed to death with a baseball bat.

The violent deaths of three women in seven days tragically underscored the relevance of a report that Manitoba's justice minister, James McCrae, released last week, damning the way that the province's justice system deals with domestic violence. In each of the three deaths between Oct. 12 and 19, police laid charges against men who were either married to or intimate with the victims. Declared Pamela Jackson, the director of a Winnipeg counselling service for battered women and their abusers, "There are just too many women being killed. It feels like open season." The violence and fear are felt far beyond Manitoba, across the country, women are pointing to a torrent of assaults by men—and demanding that governments act.

The handful of official records and credible estimates that are available offer a sobering glimpse of the extent of the fear—and the savagery. According to Gallup Canada Inc., 56 per cent of adult Canadian women (and 18 per cent of men) polled in a survey conducted in September said that they were afraid to walk in their own neighborhood after dark. A similar question in the seventh annual *Maclean's*/Decima poll last November found that fear especially high in the cities, peaking at 68 per cent of women polled in Toronto. The reasons for their anxiety are apparent in the crime statistics. Of every four Canadian women, experts estimate, one will be sexually assaulted during her life. On average, three sexual assaults are reported every hour in Canada. As well, two women a week die at the hands of a current or former husband or lover. But there are no centralized statistics on the horrifying phenomenon of women being abducted—some later to be found dead, others simply vanishing.

**Increase:** Feminists charge—and statisticians acknowledge—that men have always abused women. The number of women being killed—234 in Canada in 1990—has grown in recent decades roughly in line with the population increase. There are far more reports of sexual assault now than there were even five years ago, but it is unclear how much of that increase is a result of greater willingness of women to take their complaints to the authorities. What is different, in fact, is that women are vocally insisting, with great determination and growing political force, that the carnage end. Those demands became urgent after Marc Lépine sought out women in a murderous rampage through the classrooms and halls of the University of Montreal's engineering school, leaving 14 dead, on Dec. 6, 1989. Earlier this year, a parliamentary subcommittee examining the issue deplored what it called men's "war against women." And the full extent of women's anger may become even more evident when a nine-member federal panel, appointed by Mary Collins, minister of state for the status of women, begins public hearings on the subject early in January.

That panel will examine a tragic range of violence that may be as subtle as emotional harassment or as brutally direct as rape or a knife to the throat. Said Toronto-area Conservative MP Barbara Greene, who participated in the parliamentary subcommittee that reported earlier this year: "I think more and more people have come to realize that there is a continuum in our society ranging from the sexist jokes and the sexual harassment to date rape and other physical violence." But it is the deaths and the unanswered questions of the disappearances that emphasize the full horror of the problem. A far from exhaustive catalogue from across the country in recent weeks:

● On Sept. 26, Emma Ann Paul, a 25-year-old mother of three from Sydney, N.S., was strangled to death. Police have issued a nationwide warrant for the arrest of her boyfriend, Norman Francis, 32, on a charge of second-degree murder. Paul is one of eight women who have been murdered by intimate partners in Nova Scotia in the past year.

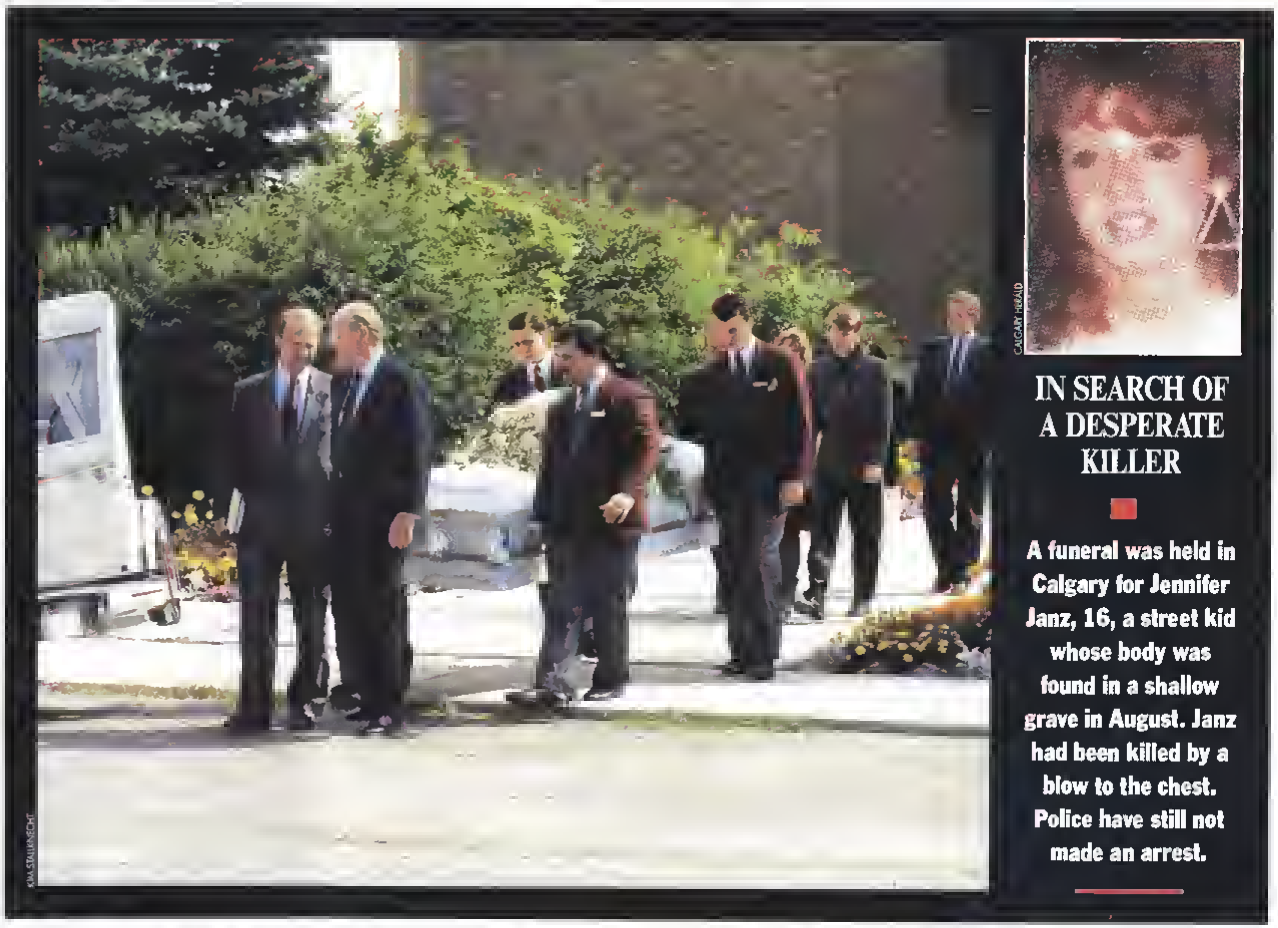
● On Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m., 47-year-old Caroline Case, owner of an exclusive gift shop in west-end Toronto, phoned one of her three daughters to say that she would be home in five minutes. The next morning, Case's white Mercedes-Benz station wagon was found overturned in a ditch northwest of Toronto, with blood and mud smeared over its interior. A massive police search has failed to turn up any evidence of her fate.

● On Oct. 24, Scott Boucher, a 22-year-old carpenter from Tilbury, Ont., shot and killed his ex-lover, Denise Bulley, 32, and shot and critically injured her estranged husband, James Bulley, 29, before killing himself. The shootings took place in front of the couple's children.

● On Oct. 25, a knife-wielding man threatened and sexually assaulted a west-end Montreal woman who had given birth to her second child only a month before. According to the victim, her attacker slapped her on the face, punched her in the stomach and ripped open her shirt. When her attacker noticed breast milk on his hand, the woman told him she had AIDS and the assailant fled. Police are searching for a serial rapist who has stalked the area since March.

● On Oct. 30, just one day after the release of the Manitoba report on domestic violence, Winnipeg police found the mutilated body of Sylvia McKay, 35, in a blood-soaked bedroom of her inner-city home. They also found the body of her husband, Wilfred McKay, 42, hanging from a staircase banister in what investigators concluded was a murder-suicide prompted by the woman's threat to leave her husband. The couple left eight children.

That latest tragedy in Winnipeg underscored the the grim fact that for some women, home is anything but a sanctuary. Rosemary





CALGARY HERALD

### IN SEARCH OF A DESPERATE KILLER

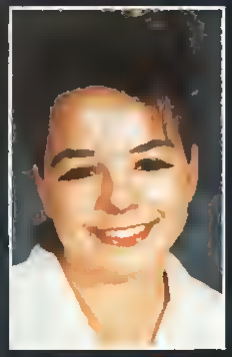
**A funeral was held in Calgary for Jennifer Janz, 16, a street kid whose body was found in a shallow grave in August. Janz had been killed by a blow to the chest. Police have still not made an arrest.**

# ONE IN FOUR CANADIAN WOMEN WILL BE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

Gartner, a professor of law and sociology at the University of Toronto, has studied the police files and coroner's reports on 670 women killed in Toronto and Vancouver between 1921 and 1988 and found similar patterns. Two of her most chilling conclusions: women are most likely to be killed by people whom they know intimately, and they are more likely to be killed in their homes then anywhere else. Indeed, less than a tenth of the victims studied by Gartner were killed by complete strangers. Gartner also found that domestic murders usually occur when men fear that they are about to lose their partner. Said Gartner: "They either suspect that the woman is going to leave them or that she is involved with another man. Often those suspicions are unfounded—but they act on them."

**Outrage:** It was precisely such domestic violence that prompted the Manitoba report released last week. The inquiry that led to it began last year, after Winnipeggers expressed outrage over the deaths of two young women at the hands of their ex-boyfriends—both of whom committed suicide within the space of 10 days. In both cases, the women had just ended the affairs. In one instance, the attacker had also been under a court order restraining him from contact with the victim because of a previous assault. Responding to the controversy, Justice Minister McCrae appointed Winnipeg lawyer Dorothy Pedlar to conduct an investigation into the ways that the police, courts and parole agencies deal with domestic violence. Last week, Pedlar issued a sweeping report that contained 76 recommendations. Noting that many men attack their victims repeatedly, Pedlar aimed most of her recommendations at ensuring that men accused of assaulting women are not given the opportunity for additional violence.

In fact, Pedlar criticized the Manitoba courts for taking too lenient an approach to men charged with assaulting their spouses or girlfriends. Often, she claimed, courts have done little more than tell accused wife-beaters when to appear in court, taking no action to restrain them from possibly renewing their attacks on the women involved. While stopping short of endorsing the demand of some Manitoba women that almost all alleged abusers should be denied bail, Pedlar declared that men accused of attacking their wives or girlfriends should be released only under strict conditions prohibiting them from contacting their victims or possessing firearms. Anyone breaking those rules, she added, should be jailed to await trial. Said Pedlar: "If the justice system does not take conditions imposed by the court seriously, then it's little wonder that on some occasions offenders don't take them seriously."



## A NEED FOR BETTER PROTECTION

**One day after e men with e machete ebducted Merilyn Jensen, 19, from her Winnipeg workplace en Oct. 12, her body wes found in the Red River. Police cherged Jensen's former commen-law husband, Carlyle Calvin Thomes, 24, with murder.**

For his part, McCrae swiftly endorsed the report, pledging to implement many of the proposals soon. Indeed, the Manitoba justice minister said that he had already instructed provincial Crown prosecutors to urge judges to imprison accused abusers who violate bail conditions and restraining orders. He said that he would issue a further directive requiring police to lay charges in all cases of suspected partner abuse—not just those involving legal spouses. As well, he said that he will provide a means for women to more easily secure court orders restraining abusive partners from attempting to contact them. "We're not going to get to the root of the problem if we don't go eyeball to eyeball with abusers and tell them that what they are doing is wrong," declared McCrae. "The abuse and murder of women in Manitoba must stop."

The suspicion that police and the courts have not always dealt sternly enough with men accused of assaulting their wives and girlfriends is widespread. An Ontario neurosurgeon, Dr. Rocco de Villiers, expressed outrage when he learned that the man who is considered the chief suspect in the brutal Aug. 9 murder of his daughter, Nina, 19, had been free on bail in connection with an earlier offence at the time of the crime.

Jonathan Yeo, 32, had been charged in mid-May with sexually assaulting a woman in Hamilton. But on June 7, an Ontario justice of the peace released him on $3,000 bail posted by his wife—with no prohibition against possessing a weapon. Yeo, who shot himself after being surrounded by police five days after de Villiers's death, is also the chief suspect in the Aug. 12 slaying of Karen Marquis of Salisbury, N.B. Declared Rocco de Villiers: "It is an outrage and violation of the public trust. If he had remained in custody, my daughter, Karen Marquis—and Mr. Yeo for that matter—may still be alive."

Still, many women's activists say that police forces and prosecutors have become steadily more vigilant over the past decade. One measure of that, they note, is that both the federal solicitor general and several provincial attorneys general have instructed police to lay charges against abusive men—even if the victim does not want to pursue the case. "I think it is true that we are finally being taken seriously on this issue," said Lise Mahar, a counsellor at Montreal's Auberge Transition, an 18-bed shelter for battered women. "It is no longer a case of the police taking the guy who hit his wife around the corner and letting him go with a stern lecture. Men are being prosecuted now, restraining orders are being issued."

**Justice:** Still, some women say that the justice system could—and should—do much more. Noted Nancy Miller, Calgary project director for the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee: "Unless police park themselves on the doorstep, restraining orders don't offer much protection." Added Miller: "And they don't do anything to ease the real psychological terror. It can be terribly frightening to be waiting for that violence to happen again."

The way that police and the courts handle domestic violence will be one of the issues confronting the new federal inquiry into the problem. Representatives for the panel, which was first promised in last May's throne speech, announced last week that they expect to begin a round of public consultation—involving both traditional open hearings and private interviews with the victims of abuse—in January. According to Marthe Vaillancourt, one of the two leaders of the panel and a Quebecer who has worked with battered women for two decades, it will "examine violence in all its forms done to women—whether it is physical, sexual or psychological, whether rape or sexual harassment. Everything that prevents women from being equal citizens in society." At the same time, Vaillancourt's anglophone counterpart, Patricia Marshall, a Toronto-based women's rights activist, acknowledged that the committee will try to alter deeply entrenched attitudes. "We have to move a long way," said Marshall, "because there is a high level of tolerance for violence in this society right now."

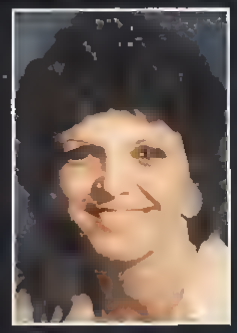
**Funding:** Critics of Collins's panel, however, accuse the federal minister of sidestepping direct action. Noting that the federal government has indirectly reduced funding for many social agencies—including shelters for battered women—by cutting transfer payments to the provinces, they claim that Collins's priorities are wrong. Said Moyra Lang, Edmonton project co-ordinator with the Alberta Status of Women Action Committee: "Our stand is that this has been studied to death. I think it is time to take the money that they are using for this study and implement education and counseling programs accessible for all women and children and for men who abuse."

In fact, the more than 300 women's shelters and sexual-assault centres across Canada have serious financial problems. According to last summer's subcommittee report, at least one woman is turned away for every one who finds refuge in a shelter in several provinces, including British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec. For her part, Deborah Trent, co-ordinator of the Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, says that lack of funding forces some women to wait up to a year to receive counselling. She added: "Imagine how a woman feels who has finally managed to summon the courage to seek help—only to be told she has to wait a year to talk to a qualified counsellor."

But helping the victims of past attacks does not address the task of deterring future assailants. As a result, psychiatrists and psychologists are now trying to determine the motives of offenders. Dr. Oto Cadsky, for one, a forensic psychiatrist at the Alberta Hospital in Edmonton, is the director of an outpatient clinic that each year assesses about 200 men, ranging from wife-beaters to psychopaths, who have committed violent crimes against women. The typical wife-beater, he says, is the son of a father who struck his wife; he sees himself as master of his household and looks upon his wife as property. Violence erupts when women challenge or confront him.

By contrast, Cadsky says that most rapists are otherwise "normally socialized" and successful in their chosen—normally competitive—fields. But they are driven to obtain what they want at any cost. According to Cadsky, most rapists "practise" their assaults in escalating stages, usually progressing from forcing sex on an unwilling girlfriend, to raping prostitutes and then sexually attacking any vulnerable woman. But Cadsky, like other researchers, has reached few conclusions about what fuels the rapist's obsession.

Similar uncertainty surrounds the development of those who are violent because of



## MURDER AT A HUSBAND'S HAND

**On Oct. 19, 1990, Dennis Baillie, 43, strangled his wife, Barbere, 44, in their Helifax home. Baillie is serving a life sentence for secend-degree murder.**

## UGLY CHARGES ON A CAMPUS

For six weeks, the ugly sex scandal rocked the normally sedate campus of the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) in Sydney, N.S. But new light may finally be shed on the alleged gang rape of an 18-year-old female student by three male students—an event that has plunged the university into a state of dismay and confusion. Indeed, this week the Sydney RCMP is expected to have completed a re-investigation of the alleged assault, said to have occurred during a Sept. 21 campus party. But the RCMP is also examining allegations by the complainant that an officer humiliated and harassed her during the initial inquiry into the incident. And those charges again raise troubling questions about how victims of sexual assault are treated by Canada's law-enforcement system. Declared Elizabeth Walsh of Sydney, the woman's lawyer: "This case reinforces the reality that any woman who suggests that she is sexually assaulted is rarely believed."

From the very beginning, the case has been blanketed in confusion. The RCMP learned about the incident through a telephone call from the concerned parent of a student in residence at UCCB. They launched an investigation—but laid no sexual-assault charges. Instead, after twice questioning the young woman, police charged her on Sept. 25 with mischief, for making unsubstantiated charges. Then, in another bizarre twist on Oct. 11, a Nova Scotia Crown prosecutor decided that there was not enough evidence to proceed with the mischief charge—and dropped it.

Six days later, the woman laid an official complaint with the RCMP in Ottawa, accusing Sydney RCMP of bungling the investigation and mistreating her. She also issued a statement in which she criticized UCCB president Peter Hill, who had told the media that she had made "advances or instigations" towards the male students. And her statement singled out, by name, one RCMP officer who, she claimed, "used words like 'baloney' and 'bull' when I tried to explain what happened." She added: "He threatened to humiliate me further if I did not co-operate by changing my story."

Since reopening the investigation, the RCMP has declined to comment on the case. UCCB officials have also kept their silence, although Hill responded to intense staff and faculty pressure for disciplinary action against the three male students by saying that he would wait until the RCMP completes its inquiries. As for the complainant, Walsh said that her client will also await the RCMP's conclusions before deciding whether or not to pursue charges. She added that the young woman "has gone through a traumatic experience." Now, with the controversy showing no signs of dying down, her nightmares may be far from over.

JOHN DeMONT *in Halifax*

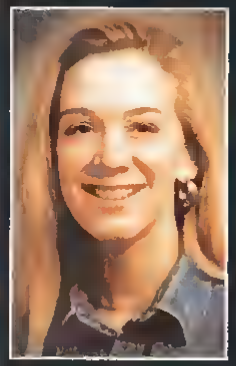
mental illness, men who, as Cadsky puts it, "pick up a gun and shoot 57 women in a lecture theatre. They have some deep-seated psychological problems and also harbor a fear, or hatred, of women." But those inconclusive observations do not provide a basis for any early breakthrough that would allow analysts to cure—or even to deter—either type of assailant.

**Martial:** Meanwhile, a growing number of women are taking action to protect themselves in individual ways. Among the most popular strategies is wen do, a form of martial arts geared towards women's self-defence. Dalija Kuca, a social services worker in Toronto, says that she is taking a course in the technique in order to feel more confident when alone. Said Kuca, "I just want a chance to get away from any attacker." At the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, female students conducted a safety audit of the campus last year to draw attention to poorly lit areas and other potential danger zones. As well, the campus women's centre runs annual self-defence courses and students conduct a popular "Safe Walk" escort service every night. Still, Neena Saxena, a member of the women's centre, says that many students continue to ignore the risks. "All women have some fear of going out at night," said Saxena, a fourth-year psychology student. "But too many wrongly think that universities are safe and isolated places." To raise awareness of campus violence, the Ottawa-based Canadian Federation of Students, which represents 450,000 university and college students, organized a "No means no" button campaign about campus date rape last year. Said student federation deputy chairman Allison Lewis: "A lot of people who have left home for the first time are especially vulnerable."

But much more than personal activism or political initiatives will be needed to erase—or even significantly reduce—violence against women. Indeed, many activists are calling for a concerted effort to change harmful attitudes about women that some boys pick up at an early age through everything from parental example to rock videos. "We need to make violence against women as socially unacceptable as smoking in public places is these days," said Susan McCrae Vander Voet, executive director of a Toronto-based committee on violence against women and children. Added Glenda Simms, president of the Ottawa-based Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women: "I would like to see the next generation change dramatically. I don't think we are educating our young people—not only are they illiterate, but they don't know how to relate to each other."

Indeed, last week there was yet another stark illustration of the ways in which violence against women is reaching into the teenage generation. In Quebec City, a 15-year-old youth pleaded guilty to attempting to murder a 13-year-old former girlfriend. The young man, who cannot be named because he is a minor, grabbed the girl as she delivered newspapers one morning in late September, dragged her to a nearby parking lot, beat her, poured a bottle of gasoline over her and set her on fire. It was a horrifying illustration of why women are insisting that attitudes have to change—and the violence has to end.

**BRIAN BERGMAN** *with correspondents' reports*



## THE BRUTAL DEATH OF A TEENAGER

**Leslie Mahaffy, 14, of Burlington, Ont., disappeared on June 15 after attending a wake for a friend.**

**Her dismembered body was found two weeks later in a lake 60 km away.**

CHARLOTTA WEISS

## MORE EQUALITY, GREATER RISKS

On Dec. 6, 1989, when Marc Lépine stalked the halls of the engineering building at the University of Montreal with his 223-calibre Sturm Ruger semi-automatic rifle, he was hunting women. He spared the men in his path—then screamed "You're all a bunch of feminists" before he gunned down the 14 females who died during his murderous rampage. Across Canada, women reacted with bitter outrage, some claiming that the carnage was part of a deadly backlash by men against the advances made by women in recent years. But according to Statistics Canada, the rate of female murders in Canada has remained remarkably constant—at around 0.8 per 100,000 people—for almost 20 years. And, the experts add, while troubled individuals such as Lépine strike fear into the hearts of women, they remain an aberration. Said University of Alberta sociologist Robert Silverman, a leading authority on murder: "If you were doing a trend line on female murder, it would be a flat line. Marc Lépine was not a trend."

Still, some experts say that the statistics hide some subtle changes. University of Victoria sociologist William McCarthy, who in association with University of Toronto sociologist Rosemary Gartner earlier this year published a major study on female homicide in Vancouver and Toronto, noted that 62 per cent of female murder victims are killed in their homes by their husbands or other men that they know intimately—a figure that has remained consistent over the years. But while the female murder rate has not changed dramatically, the actual number of women killed has risen in accordance with increases in the Canadian population, to 234 in 1990 from 172 in 1971. And within that increase, said McCarthy, are greater numbers of younger, single women who are being murdered by strangers.

The explanation, according to McCarthy, is that over the past two decades, younger women have come to enjoy a measure of social equality with men. As a result, they have increasingly become vulnerable to the same types of incidents that put men at risk of being murdered, such as being assaulted in an underground parking lot after work or late in the evening at a bar. Said McCarthy: "In the same way that males leading these types of lifestyles have greater homicide risks, females who lead these lifestyles also have greater homicide risks."

Another study done by Gartner last year appears to support that contention. Examining the rate of female murder in 18 countries, she discovered that in societies where women play a subservient role to men, female murder rates are low. But in Western societies where women have achieved a greater degree of independence, the rates are higher. It is a chilling prospect: greater equality brings greater risks.

**TOM FENNELL**





# STUDIES IN TERROR

## *THE STATISTICS DISGUISE THE HORROR*

**Sept. 14, 1990.** Guy Santerre, a 34-year-old construction contractor and cocaine abuser, murdered his wife, Louise Prieur-Santerre, 29, in their suburban Laval, Que., home with a knife. Santerre also killed the couple's seven-month-old son, David, and their five-year-old daughter, Geneviève, whom he stabbed more than 20 times. Last week, a jury found Santerre guilty of three counts of first-degree murder, and a judge sentenced him to 25 years in prison with no chance of parole. According to trial evidence, Santerre's wife had asked him for a divorce a week before the killings.

**March 6, 1991:** Bernice Bridget Whiffen, a 17-year-old single mother with a one-month-old child in Sydney, N.S., died when a former boyfriend, Kevin Wainwright, 20, stabbed her repeatedly with a knife. Wainwright had an interest in satanism. On Oct. 11, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was remanded to a psychiatric hospital for further assessment. On Nov. 29, a judge will decide whether Wainwright should be retained in custody indefinitely as an insane person.

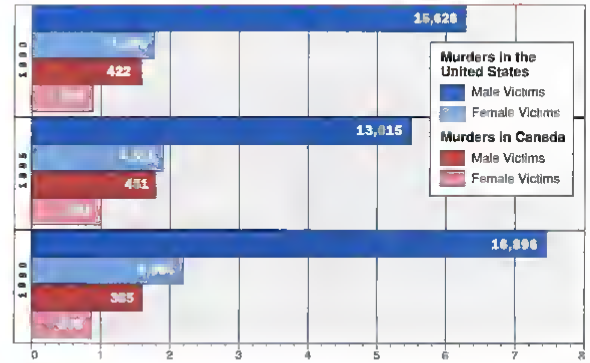
**May 4, 1991:** Around 1:16 a.m., a masked intruder entered the house of a married 28-year-old Calgary woman whose husband was away. The woman dialled the 911 emergency line and screamed, but the intruder hung up the phone and proceeded to assault her sexually. Instead of sending a squad car, the police tried to call the woman back. Twenty-one minutes later, after the intruder had left, police re-established contact, and she reported the rape. Only then did they send officers to her house. Calgary police said that they have tightened their response procedures.

**Aug. 21, 1991:** Rose Merasti, an unemployed 35-year-old Vancouver woman, met Joseph Reed, 22, while the two were out drinking. Merasti accepted an invitation from Reed to join him in his room at the Blood Alley residence, a skid-row rooming house. But the two began to argue—and Reed struck Merasti. Moments later, she died from massive head injuries after falling from Reed's third-floor window. Charged with manslaughter, Reed pleaded guilty to aggravated assault last month and will be sentenced in two weeks.

**Oct. 13, 1991:** Marie-Claude Côté, 17, a student who lives in Montreal's chic Outremont neighborhood, went missing after she visited La Barina nightclub. The teenager was last seen by a friend on the dance floor at the bar. Her coat was left in the cloak room, and one of her black suede high-heeled shoes was found in the parking lot. Montreal police said that they were were checking out dozens of leads. A $32,000 reward has been posted for information on Côté's whereabouts.

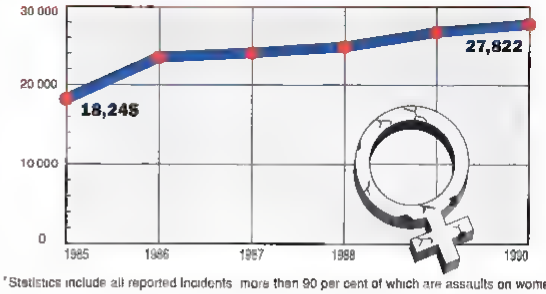
**Oct. 22, 1991:** A 17-year-old girl from Oakville, Ont., was beaten, choked and sexually assaulted after entering the deserted upper deck of a commuter train eastbound for Toronto. Last week, police arrested Terry Ekins, 22, of the Toronto suburb of Scarborough, after two transit officials spotted a man matching the description that the victim had given to the police. Ekins faces charges of aggravated sexual assault, forcible confinement, sexual assault and choking, and was not granted bail. He has not yet had a chance to respond in court to the charges. □

### MURDER RATES IN TWO NATIONS




Number of homicides per 100,000 population. (Figures in bars represent actual annual numbers.)

### SEXUAL ASSAULTS REPORTED IN CANADA*




*Statistics include all reported incidents; more than 90 per cent of which are assaults on women. Experts estimate that more than half of all sexual assaults in Canada still go unreported.

Sources: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and Federal Bureau of Investigation

# THE NIGHTMARE YEARS

## *ONE WOMAN RECALLS HER SUFFERING*

*When "Sandra" first met her future second husband, she was struck by how much he resembled actor Paul Newman. The two met at a dinner party in April, 1985, and that evening was the beginning of what briefly became, in her words, "a champagne tour." Now, the 48-year-old registered nurse calls what happened later "the nightmare." Sandra is not her real name. On condition that she would not be identified because of her continuing fear of her husband, she told the story of her three years of terror in a lengthy interview* Maclean's *Associate Editor Nora Underwood reports*

Sandra was divorced, a nurse practising in Ottawa. The man was an officer in the military. Only rarely during the three years between their meeting and the marriage that they celebrated in June, 1988, did Sandra see a glimpse of his quick temper. But two months later, she discovered that her husband was having an affair with a co-worker. During a conversation in their parked car, Sandra confronted her husband about the infidelity. He responded explosively, pulling Sandra out of the car by her ankles and dragging her onto the gravel shoulder, where he started to beat her. When it was over, he drove Sandra home and immediately left for a new posting. "I thought, 'He's going to apologize, he's a staunch Catholic,' " recalled Sandra. "But that never happened. And the frightening part is, he's never shown any remorse."

**Excuses:** That incident was only the beginning. During the seven months before she finally locked her husband out of their house, she was subjected to seven more brutal assaults—each one, she says, more violent than the last. Throughout their brief time together, Sandra says, she tried to find excuses for her husband's behavior. His first wife had died of cancer and he was having difficulty coping with his two teenage children. At the same time, he was having trouble with his superior officers at work. And like so many other victims of wife assault, Sandra—who has two children of her own from her first marriage—says that for the longest time she could not contemplate the prospect of leaving him. "I know that I'd say a woman is nuts, she should be running," said Sandra. "But when it happens to you, you're so much in shock. And what's so difficult is, emotionally, you're tied up with that person." She added, "I was really in love with him. And I thought, my God, we had everything to be happy about—good incomes, great kids—and life could have been perfect. Yet it became a living hell."

For months during their courtship, Sandra acknowledges, her devotion to her future husband blinded her to what she now says were warning signs. She had always cherished the independence that her first husband had given her before their divorce—she loved to golf, take courses at school and go to the opera. In contrast, her new husband-to-be phoned her every day at work and insisted on picking her up in the evenings. Sandra says that she was initially delighted by how ardent he seemed. "He liked to control," said Sandra. "In the beginning I didn't see it as checking up." Added Sandra, "Someone later said, 'You were naive.' I said I was naive in a way, yes. But I was also flattered by the attention."

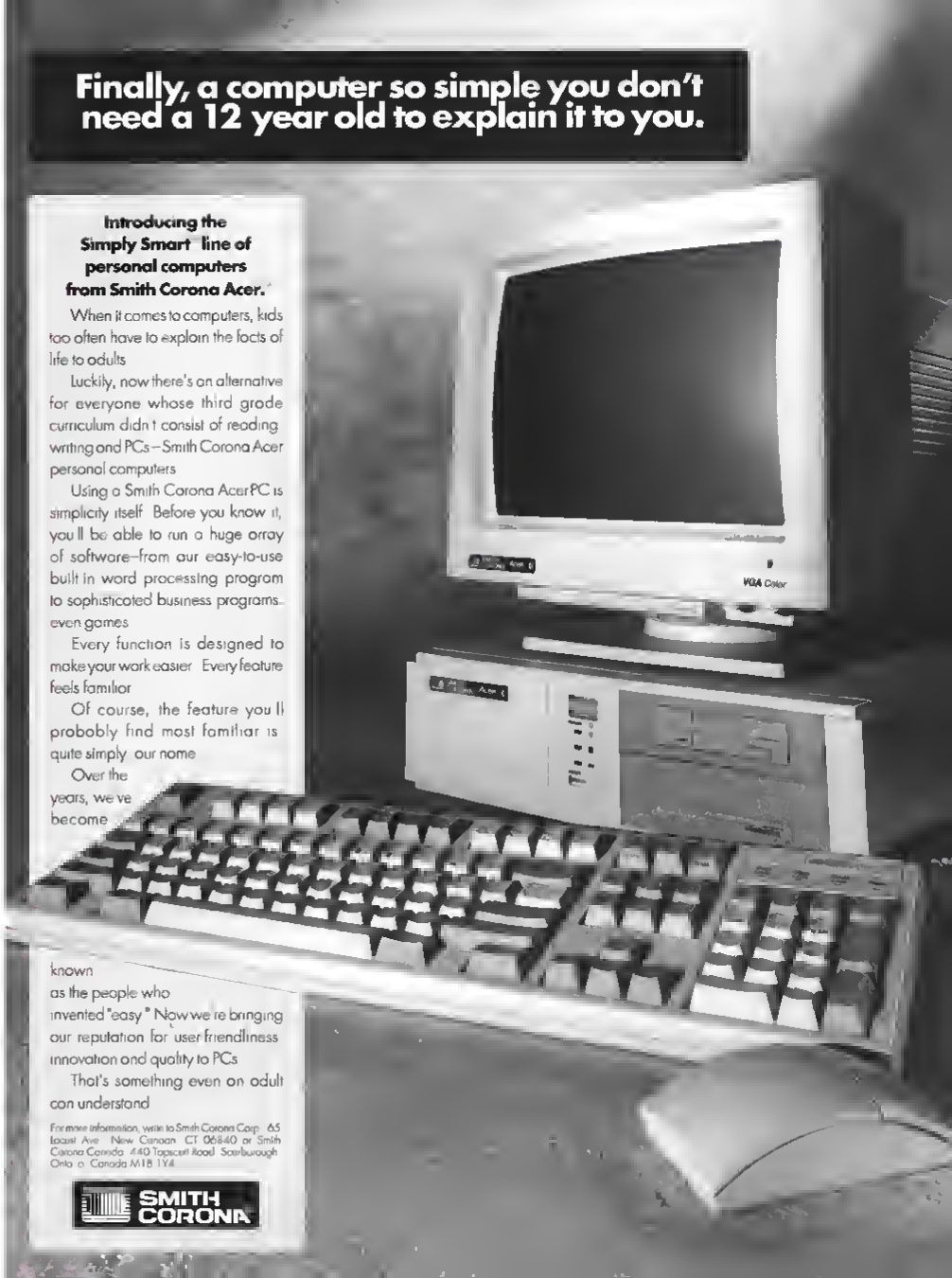
Even after their marriage and the first beatings, Sandra says that she felt she would eventually be able to get through to her husband and help him battle whatever demons were making him so unpredictable. "He poured scalding coffee over my head, he tried to drown me in the tub, and five minutes later he would say, 'Let's have breakfast,' " Sandra recalled. "The switch would be so quick. One instant he was charming, and the next instant. . . ." But with each additional assault and her husband's continuing refusal to talk to her about his problems, Sandra finally began to seek help. Said Sandra, "When he kicked me the last time, I thought, 'I can't take it anymore.' "

> **'I was in love. We had good incomes, great kids. Life could have been perfect. Yet it became a living hell.'**
>
> **'He poured scalding coffee over my head, he tried to drown me in the tub, and five minutes later he would say, "Let's have breakfast." '**
>
> **'I thought, "He's going to apologize." But the frightening part is, he's never shown any remorse.'**

But ending the relationship was not a simple process. "The fear of violence is something terrible. Physically, it's terrible, mentally, it's terrible," said Sandra. "However, the stigma and the fear of coming out and the lack of resources are worse than the beatings themselves." Sandra tried to get help from social workers and her husband's superiors. She filed a complaint with the police and took her case to several lawyers, none of whom, she said, took her situation seriously enough. "At that time, you were responsible to lay the charges as a wife," explained Sandra. "That's a huge responsibility. I knew that when I did that, his career would be on the line." She added, "My purpose was not to destroy his career, not to destroy a human being. My purpose was to get him to go into psychotherapy. I didn't care if we got a divorce. I knew that the marriage might never work again."

**Survival:** Sandra subsequently found a lawyer who would help her. Although she is now involved in separation proceedings with her husband and has not seen him for a year, she says that she fears every day that he will harm her again. "It makes you feel like a caged animal," said Sandra. "I feel like a fugitive in my own world. There is a very high price for speaking out." In retrospect, she says, she can see the toll that the abuse took on her. She lost 25 lb., her health suffered, she began to have nightmares and she withdrew from the world and from her friends. But her unflagging desire to win back her right to a safe existence has clearly given her the strength to continue. "My husband nearly destroyed me, and I don't know why I've survived," said Sandra. "I must have survived for a purpose." □



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IT JUST FEELS RIGHT



*President Bush addresses the conference: belligerent speeches in an atmosphere that was charged with distrust*

**WORLD**

# THE GREAT DIVIDE

## *ISRAELIS AND ARABS MEET IN A HISTORIC ATTEMPT TO END 43 YEARS OF CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST*

Yoash Zidon launched his own personal peace initiative last Thursday. Zidon, an adviser to the Israeli delegation at the Middle East peace talks that opened in Madrid the day before, walked 30 paces from his government's office in the conference media centre to the Palestinian office and introduced himself to Albert Aghazarian. The Israeli and the Palestinian clasped hands and made nervous small talk, each acutely aware of the symbolism of the moment. "Let's go back home and start talking," urged Zidon. "I want to eat hummus in your place, and you eat hummus in my place." Replied Aghazarian with a smile: "Well, I will eat maybe gefilte fish in your place." The two men traded a few more jokes—as well as some barbed remarks that underlined the gulf still dividing them—and then parted. "So we shook hands," Zidon said as he squeezed out of Aghazarian's office. "Maybe it's a start."

The peace conference itself, which brought Israel and its Arab neighbors together for the first time after 43 years of conflict, had a similarly tentative quality. For three days, representatives of Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and the Palestinians made history simply by sitting around a T-shaped conference table in the ornate Hall of Columns of Madrid's Royal Palace. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his team sat directly across from the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, separated only by the 13-foot width of the linen-covered table. President George Bush, who opened the conference, called it a historic gathering, but added: "We do not expect peace to be negotiated in a day, or a week, or a month or even a year."

The conference delegates quickly justified Bush's caution. They did not talk directly to one another, and their belligerent speeches served only to mark their bargaining positions. On Friday, when they ended the meeting's first phase, they were abusing each other in harsh language. Shamir denounced Syria's government as "one of the most oppressive, tyrannical regimes in the world." Syria's foreign minister, Farouk al-Shara, responded by holding up a wanted poster of Shamir from the late 1940s when the Israeli leader was a member of a Jewish underground group fighting for Israel's independence and participated in the assassination of a UN envoy. "He himself recognized that he was a terrorist," thundered Shara. "He killed peace mediators." The atmosphere was so charged with mistrust that Arabs and Israelis could not even agree by meeting's end on when and where to begin private, face-to-face talks on substantive issues.

All along, Bush and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who personally organized the conference during eight trips to the Middle East, had emphasized that only direct talks could make progress towards peace. Adjourning the conference's main session, a visibly annoyed Baker said: "This has been a start, but it is only a start. You must not let this start become an end." The participants eventually agreed to keep talking in Madrid. But that first face-to-face session, scheduled for Nov. 3, was to deal only with the timing and location of future talks. Only when, and if, those talks begin will it be possible to assess how serious the parties are about peace. "So far, it has been a big carnival, a big media battle," Radwan Abu Ayyash, a Palestinian adviser, said bluntly. "The real world starts when you close the doors and talk directly."

Meanwhile, the real world of Middle East strife underscored the delegates' difficulties. On Tuesday, before the talks even started, Moslem guerrillas killed three Israeli soldiers and wounded six others in two ambushes in south Lebanon, and Israeli warplanes later retaliated with air strikes against guerrilla targets there. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip, radical Palestinians called a general strike to protest the Madrid conference, battling rival moderate groups with knives and stones.

Against such a backdrop, organizers of the Madrid conference had attempted to avoid anything that might strike a note of confrontation—even removing from the Hall of Columns a statue showing the 16th-century Spanish ruler Charles V slaying a demon, and replacing it with a figure representing justice. "Better symbolism," explained a Spanish organizer. But when the Israeli and Arab delegates found themselves in the hall together for the first time on Wednesday morning, their encounter was painfully strained. Among the Arab leaders, only Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, whose country signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, shook hands with the Israelis. The others avoided any contact during the half-hour before the session, their eyes only occasionally flickering towards their longtime enemies. The next day, all delegations carefully scheduled their arrivals to cut the waiting time. Not surprisingly, U.S. officials took pains not to raise expectations. After the first session, Baker warned: "We have to crawl before we walk, and we have to walk before we run. Today, I think we all began to crawl."

Before the meeting began, Baker had argued that simply getting the long-standing enemies together provided a chance to overcome old myths and prejudices. And on the fringes of the conference, there were some tentative signs of that. Bruce Kashdan, a member of the Israeli advance team, recalled that he needed a screwdriver to set up some equipment in his temporary office. "I went to the Lebanese and borrowed one," said Kashdan. "It was perfectly normal." Israeli journalists also set about interviewing Jordanian and Lebanese officials, while the Israelis organized briefings for Arab reporters. However, other attempts to break the ice were less successful. Despite Israeli adviser Zidon's successful visit to the Palestinian office, a similar gesture towards Syrian representatives backfired. When he walked into their office, followed by a crush of reporters, Syrian delegates rushed into an adjoining room to avoid him. "This is how they invade other people's territory," shouted one Syrian as Zidon retreated.

Part of the problem was that all delegations were also addressing their domestic audiences. Extreme right-wing groups in Israel, on which Shamir depends to keep his coalition in power, have voiced fears that the peace process might undermine Israel's security. As a result, Shamir dwelt on the long history of Jewish persecution, saying nothing that would compromise Israel's grip on the occupied territories. Arab leaders, too, had domestic concerns. In Tehran early in the week, militant groups that reject Israel's very right to exist proclaimed that anyone attending the Madrid meetings was committing a sin against Islam. "We all have our extremists," said an adviser to an Arab team. "We can only hope that when we get into face-to-face talks, we can be more realistic."

At week's end, Israel was pressing hard to move those talks to the Middle East, with meetings alternating in Arab countries and Israel itself. "You meet in his house, he meets in yours," explained Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's deputy foreign minister. But Arab states, especially Syria, reject such meetings because the presence of their representatives in Israel would extend tacit recognition to the Jewish state,

## World Notes

**JAPAN'S NEW LEADER**
The ruling Liberal Democratic party elected 72-year-old Kiichi Miyazawa as its new president. Because of the party's majority in Japan's lower house of parliament, its leader automatically becomes prime minister. Miyazawa, a former deputy premier and finance minister, will replace outgoing Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Nov. 5.

**DEADLOCK IN POLAND**
In the Oct. 27 general elections, former Solidarity prime minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki's Democratic Union was the biggest winner, taking 62 seats in the 460-seat Sejm, or lower house of parliament. But the Democratic Left Alliance, the former Communist party, came in second with 60 seats, and 27 other parties won one or more seats. Analysts blamed the mixed results on voter disillusionment with the outgoing Solidarity government's harsh economic reforms. Rival party leaders will meet President Lech Walesa this week to try to forge a coalition government.

**CLOSING CHERNOBYL**
Calling the Chernobyl nuclear power plant "an object of constant danger," the Ukrainian parliament approved a resolution to shut it down by 1993. In the immediate aftermath of an explosion at the plant's Reactor 4 in 1986, 32 people died and a cloud of radiation blew across Europe. Some environmental groups have estimated the overall death toll from leaked radiation to be in the thousands. The resolution calls on the United Nations and foreign governments to set up a fund to help cover the costs associated with the closure of the plant and continuing cleanup operations.

**PUBLIC SCRUTINY**
Palm Beach Judge Mary Lupo rejected a defence motion to bar television cameras from the jury-selection process in the trial of William Kennedy Smith, who is charged with raping a woman at his family's Florida estate last March. The trial of Smith, a nephew of Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, is scheduled to start on Dec. 2.

**LIBYAN SUSPECTS**
A Paris judge issued international warrants for the arrests of four Libyan officials, including Abdallah Senoussi, the brother-in-law of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, in connection with the 1989 midair bombing of a French airliner on a flight from Congo to Paris. The blast killed all 171 passengers and crew.

which they are unwilling to give. And Palestinian delegates insist that they cannot negotiate anywhere under Israeli jurisdiction. Said Hanan Mikhail-Ashrawi, the Palestinians' main spokesman, "Our phones are tapped we cannot move freely, we are subject to arrest. We need a neutral and free place to negotiate."

If the participants do finally talk directly about their differences, the agenda will be long and complicated. Syria's main sticking point is Israel's occupation since 1967 of the Golan Heights, which dominate the Jordan Valley and northern Israel. Aside from strategic value, the Golan is vital to both countries as a source of scarce water; fully a quarter of Israel's water originates in the area. Said Dori Gold, an adviser to the Israeli delegation: "The notion that we would put the sources of the Jordan River back into Syrian hands is something Israelis will be very reluctant to consider."



AFP/SYGMA

*Funeral for an Israeli victim of a terrorist attack: the real world of Middle East strife*

Most intractable will be future talks between Israelis and Palestinians. The Palestinians last week used the peace-conference podium to make their maximum demand: that Israel should allow the creation of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, their representatives have a long list of more modest bargaining points aimed at easing the conditions of Israeli military rule. They include gradual transfer to Palestinian authority of such things as schools, universities and municipal services as part of a transitional period to eventual statehood. The Palestinians, along with the other Arab delegations, are also certain to demand a halt to Jewish settlements in the occupied territories—something that Shamir flatly rules out. The Israelis, in turn, would likely include among their early demands a halt to the Palestinian *intifadeh*, or uprising.

Such an agenda points to months, if not years, of protracted negotiations—unless the peace process falls apart entirely. "Maybe it will take a few weeks for everyone to shake hands, and a few months to really start talking," reflected Saeb Erakat, a Palestinian delegate who symbolically draped his Arab kaffiyeh scarf over the shoulders of his business suit during the entire conference. "But if we have learned anything over the years, we have learned patience." In that, if in nothing else, Erakat could equally well have been speaking for the Israelis be faced for the first time last week across a peace table.

**ANDREW PHILLIPS** *in Madrid*

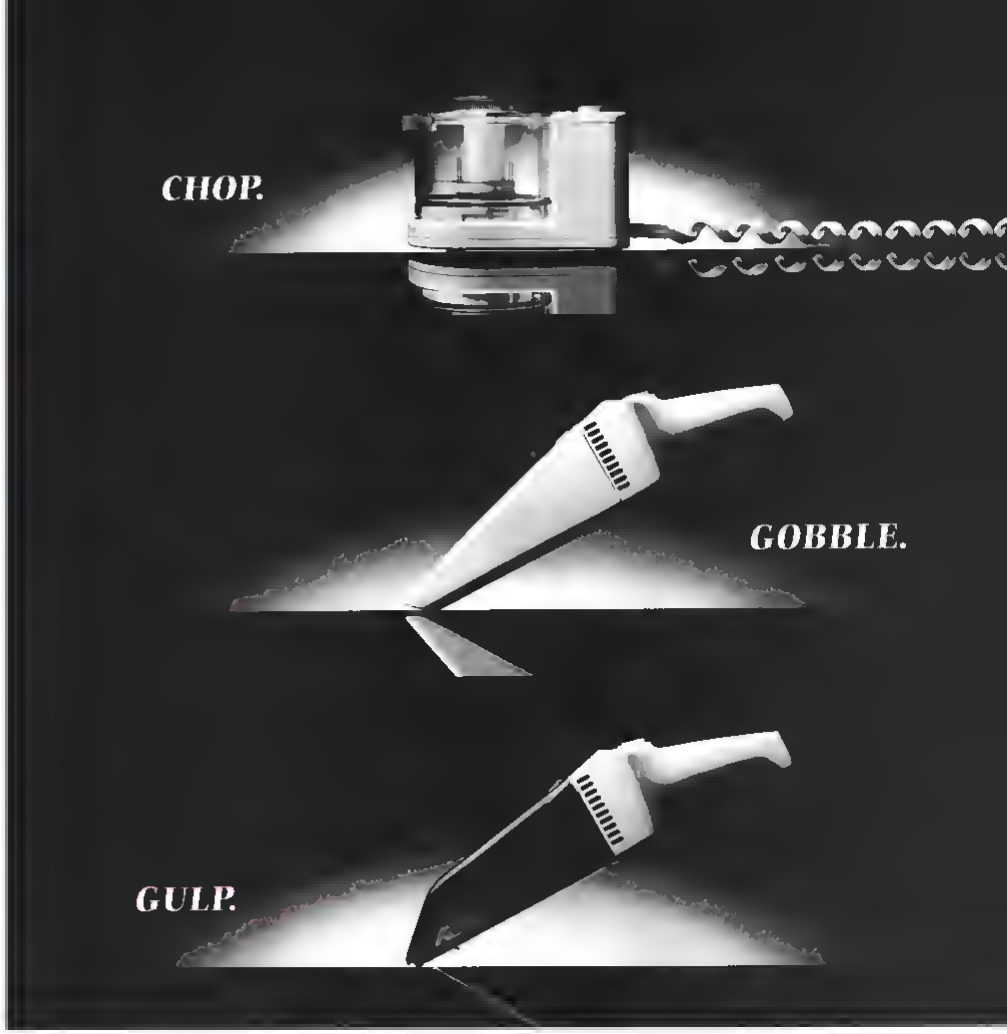
## 'A MATTER OF POWER'

The 20 young men watching the opening speeches of the Madrid peace conference on a TV set in the YMCA in Beit Sahur were the foot soldiers of the *intifadeh*, the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that began in 1987. They were the stone-throwers, the tire-burners, the slogan-painters. Some had served time in Israeli military prisons; all had been wounded by the occupying army. The YMCA, on the site of the field where shepherds watched their flocks on the night of Jesus' birth up the hill in Bethlehem, is a West Bank rehabilitation centre for *intifadeh* casualties. It is a place for them to learn a trade and receive psychological counselling. After watching the televised speeches, almost all of them expressed skepticism about the peace process, but some said that it was worth a try. "I support any way to liberate Palestine," said Salah el-Wadi, a 20-year-old from Gaza who sat in a wheelchair—he had been shot in the spine and was paralysed from the waist down. Personal sacrifices like his own, he added, are "the first step to liberate our lands. It's good for us together to go to this conference to fight for our rights."

Nasser Sharabati, a 30-year-old psychiatric counsellor at the centre, said that he agreed. "We can have more influence inside the process than outside," he said. But other Palestinians expressed contrary views. A 21-year-old carpenter who insisted on anonymity contended that the Palestinian delegation should have gone to Madrid only under the banner of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). "They have betrayed the Palestinian cause," charged the carpenter, who had been shot in the abdomen. He added: "The Palestinian people are not just the West Bank and Gaza. They are also the refugees in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. They are our people in Jerusalem, our people living in the territories Israel occupied in the 1948 war. The PLO must be there to represent all of them." What, he was asked, could he offer in place of the peace conference? "We have to use the gun against the Israelis," he replied.

George Ghanem, a 22-year-old university student who spent two years in Israeli prisons, was more diplomatic but equally adamant that the Palestinians should have boycotted the talks. "It's all a matter of power," he maintained. "The strong will get a good result, the weak will get a bad result. The Palestinians are weak, the Israelis are strong. Our only strength is the *intifadeh*." But, he was asked, what about the warning from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker that the peace bus might not pass their way again? Said Ghanem: "I say to Baker, 'We do not want to enter the bus now. We will enter it when we are strong.'" He added: "I believe the bus will come again. I am prepared to wait."

**ERIC SILVER** *in Beit Sahur*




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# A clash over blood, land and pride

## *Old enmities plague new efforts for peace in the Middle East*

*Six wars and almost incessant guerrilla conflict bloodied the 43 years between the founding of modern Israel and the opening of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid on Oct. 30. Three of the governments represented at the unique meeting—Syria, Jordan and Lebanon—remain in a formal state of war with Israel. Only Egypt, which signed a U.S.-mediated peace treaty in 1979, officially recognizes Israel. The fifth Arab delegation at Madrid represents the stateless Palestinians, who resisted Israel's founding in 1948 and, during the past four years, have engaged in an uprising (intifadeh) in Israeli-held territories. The new peace effort aimed to erase the legacies of death and damaged pride left by decades of war. Turning points in that grim history:*

**1948** On May 14, Israel proclaimed its statehood after the Arabs rejected a UN plan for the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. The next day, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq invaded in support of Palestine. At the time of a ceasefire eight months later, Israel occupied some of the land allotted by the United Nations to the Palestinians, but had lost the West Bank land along the Jordan River to Jordan and the Gaza Strip on the Mediterranean coast to Egypt.

**1956** Following years of cross-border guerrilla combat, and after Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal 12 years before its scheduled transfer from joint British-French ownership, Israel invaded Egypt on Oct. 29 and captured most of the Sinai peninsula and the Gaza Strip. Two days later, British and French forces attacked Egypt. All of the invaders withdrew within five months under U.S. pressure and with the establishment in Sinai and Gaza of a peacekeeping UN Emergency Force sponsored by Canada.

**1967** On May 17, Egypt demanded the withdrawal of UNEF troops and later blockaded Israel's southern port of Eilat while other Arab armies made threatening moves. On June 5, Israel attacked by air and land and, in a six-day war, seized Sinai and Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan Heights overlooking northern Israel. A UN resolution on Nov. 22 calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied lands and Arab recognition of Israel went unheeded.

**1973** Amid persistent tensions as Israel built up Jewish settlements in former Arab territories, Egypt attacked in Sinai and Syria in the Golan Heights on Oct. 6, Yom Kippur, Israel's holiest day. Israel suffered heavy casualties and, under pressure from the West as an Arab oil embargo inflated world prices, yielded some territory in Sinai and Syria.

**1982** On April 25, under its 1979 peace treaty with Egypt, Israel completed the withdrawal of its forces and settlers from Sinai. But six weeks later, on June 6, Israel invaded Lebanon with the declared aim of neutralizing forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). That goal had been shared in part by Syria in a 1976 incursion during the early stages of what became a protracted Lebanese civil war. Both maintain an armed presence in Lebanon, the Israelis holding a self-declared security zone in the south.

**1991** The Gulf War changed the power balance in the Middle East. Egypt and Syria took part in the U.S.-led defeat of Iraqi forces in February. Israel, a target of Iraqi missile attacks, was restrained by U.S. pressure from joining in. Jordan and Lebanon espoused military neutrality. The PLO leadership openly supported Iraq. The turmoil, along with the end of U.S.-Soviet rivalry in the region, encouraged Washington, with Moscow's support, to press the main players in the long Arab-Israeli conflict to meet together for the first time and talk peace.



CHESNOT/SIPA

**ISRAEL** Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, 76, a Polish-born veteran of the guerrilla struggle that carved modern Israel out of Palestine, led a hard-line delegation to the Madrid conference. He is not only committed to the security of Israel's largely Jewish population of about 4.2 million within its 1948 borders, which encompass an area less than two-fifths the size of Nova Scotia. Shamir also has vowed that he will yield "not one inch" of territories captured in 1967—land amounting to about one-third the area of Israel itself and now inhabited by several hundred thousand Jewish settlers, as well as some 1.8 million Arabs.



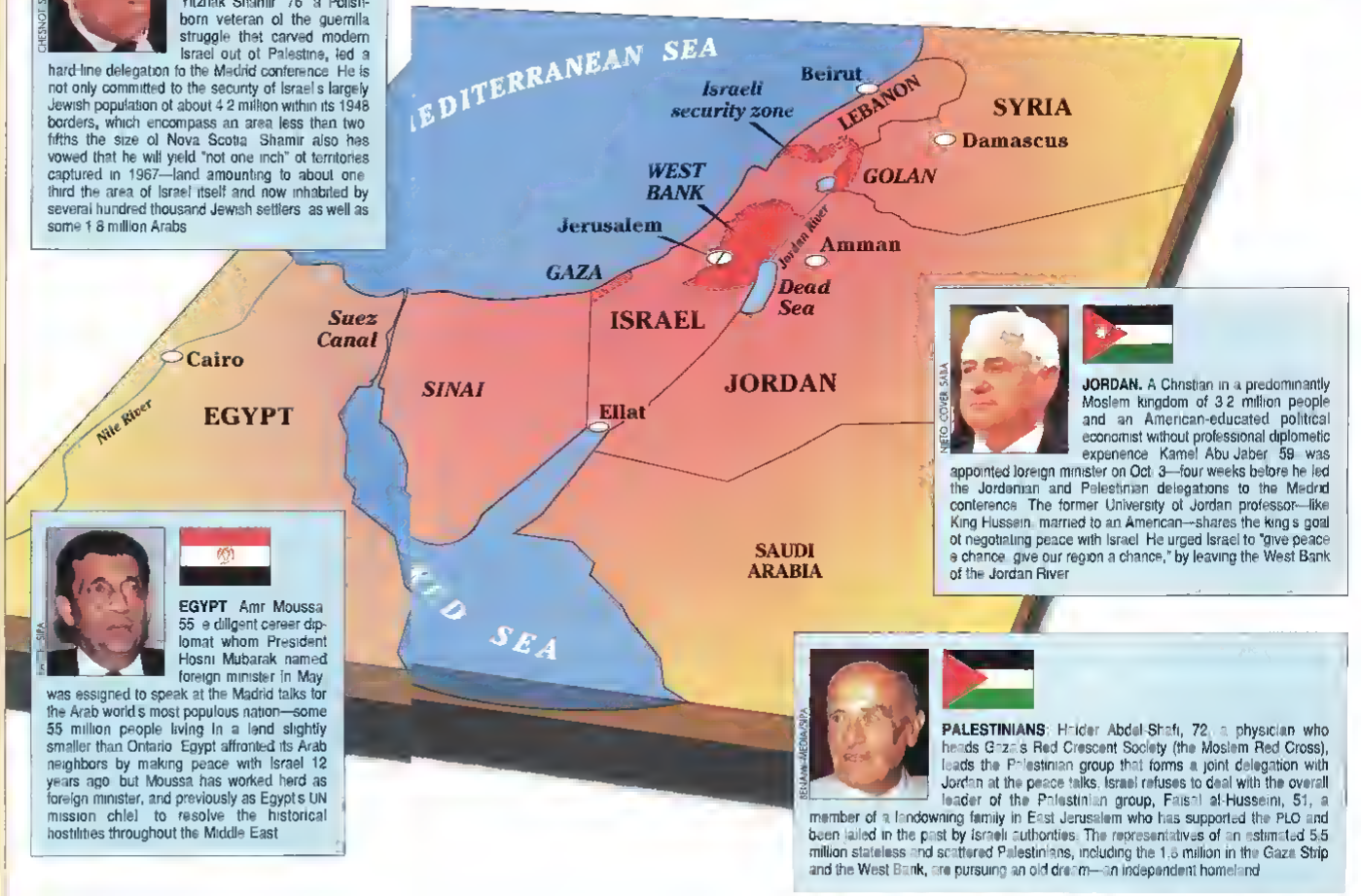
CHESNOT/SIPA

**LEBANON** Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, 36, heads a delegation that seeks the removal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in the wake of a 15-year civil war in which Syria also intervened. Syria remains the main power broker in a country less than twice the size of Prince Edward Island where the population of about 3.3 million is divided into numerous Moslem and Christian sects. Bouez, a Maronite Christian lawyer, belongs to the pacifist National Bloc, which has urged the withdrawal of Syrian troops. Despite that, Bouez was named foreign minister last December by pro-Syrian President Elias Hrawi—his father-in-law.



NON/SIPA

**SYRIA** Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shara, 53, is a trusted spokesman for President Hafez al-Assad and the mainly Sunni Moslem population of 12.5 million in a nation 2½ times the size of New Brunswick. A student of English literature and a University of London graduate in international law, Shara built a reputation as a diplomatic broker before leading Syria's delegation to Madrid. He has been active in persuading Shiite Moslem groups in Lebanon to free Western hostages and to resolve factional disputes in the Lebanese civil war. Syria seeks the return of the Israeli-held Golan Heights.






SIPA

**EGYPT** Amr Moussa, 55, a diligent career diplomat whom President Hosni Mubarak named foreign minister in May, was assigned to speak at the Madrid talks for the Arab world's most populous nation—some 55 million people living in a land slightly smaller than Ontario. Egypt affronted its Arab neighbors by making peace with Israel 12 years ago, but Moussa has worked hard as foreign minister, and previously as Egypt's UN mission chief, to resolve the historical hostilities throughout the Middle East.



NIETO-COVER/SABA

**JORDAN.** A Christian in a predominantly Moslem kingdom of 3.2 million people and an American-educated political economist without professional diplomatic experience, Kamel Abu Jaber, 59, was appointed foreign minister on Oct. 3—four weeks before he led the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the Madrid conference. The former University of Jordan professor—like King Hussein, married to an American—shares the king's goal of negotiating peace with Israel. He urged Israel to "give peace a chance, give our region a chance," by leaving the West Bank of the Jordan River.



BENJAMIN-AREDIA/SIPA

**PALESTINIANS:** Haidar Abdel-Shafi, 72, a physician who heads Gaza's Red Crescent Society (the Moslem Red Cross), leads the Palestinian group that forms a joint delegation with Jordan at the peace talks. Israel refuses to deal with the overall leader of the Palestinian group, Faisal al-Husseini, 51, a member of a landowning family in East Jerusalem who has supported the PLO and been jailed in the past by Israeli authorities. The representatives of an estimated 5.5 million stateless and scattered Palestinians, including the 1.6 million in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, are pursuing an old dream—an independent homeland.

Compiled by Carl Mollins

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Safety Boss crew tackling a flaming well: danger, foul air and oil everywhere

*Letter from Kuwait*

# The end of a firestorm

*Some experts said that it would take years. But the oilfield inferno that Iraqi troops ignited before withdrawing from Kuwait in February has almost been extinguished. This week, Kuwait's emir, Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, will ceremonially douse the flames at the last burning well.* Maclean's *Correspondent Frank Touby was part of the international team fighting the blaze. A veteran journalist, the 52-year-old Touby joined Calgary-based Safety Boss Ltd., arriving in Kuwait in early October. His report:*

Birds flutter near the last of the hellish flames, cobras and large yellow lizards dart across the sand, and desert rats lick sticky black tar from their feet. Even the palm trees standing in a pool of oil in the ruling emir's burned-out garden in Kuwait City stubbornly produce new growth. Eight months after the end of the Persian Gulf War, Kuwait is slowly returning to life. And late on Oct. 24, after working almost 200 gruelling days under the perpetual night of thick, smoke-blackened skies, Canadian firefighters saw something that they had not witnessed in the Kuwaiti sky for months: the sun. The men stood in awe as the huge red ball set in the west, its reflection shining off a lake of crude. Nearby, the arm of a corpse protruded from the sand—casting long, delicate shadows from withered fingers.

Thousands of dead Iraqi soldiers and bombed-out vehicles littered the desert when Canadian and other foreign firefighters arrived in Kuwait shortly after the country's Feb. 26 liberation. Fleeing before advancing allied forces, the Iraqis had bombed 732 of the country's 940 wells, setting an estimated 670 of them ablaze—the world's worst oilfield disaster and a serious threat to the global ecology. About six million barrels of oil spewed from the damaged wells each day. Most of it burned from roaring geysers into a toxic 600-mile-long plume of smoke that spread across the Persian Gulf region, some of it just gushed out onto the desert.

Firefighters encountered lakes of crude oil so deep that they considered navigating them with rowboats. And the lakes were lethal. In April, two *Financial Times* of London journalists and three Indian workers got lost in thick smoke on a highway through the Ahmadi oilfield. They drove into a lake of burning oil and were engulfed in flames.

For Kuwait, which depends on oil for its wealth, the fires were an economic disaster, as well. The country now produces about 300,000 barrels of crude each day, and expects to be able to reach its prewar production capacity of two million barrels a day within two years. But when the wells were destroyed, about $120 million in crude went up in smoke every day. By the time the last well is capped this week, Kuwait will have lost more than two per cent of its 94.5 billion barrels of proven reserves.

It could have been worse. Kuwaiti officials predicted that all the well fires would not be out before March, 1992. And some experts, including Texas firefighting legend Paul (Red) Adair, maintained that it could take three to five years. The Kuwait Oil Co. hired Red Adair Co. Inc. and two other American firms, Boots & Coots Inc. and Joe Bowden's Wild Well Control Inc., to begin the cleanup effort last March. Calgary's Safety Boss began a month later, and together the companies became known as the Original Four. But as those firms perfected their techniques, the effort accelerated. And in the last few weeks, as many as 28 companies were fighting the oil fires, including teams from Kuwait, France, Hungary, China and Iran.

The blowout companies will not reveal their exact rates, but they charge an estimated $50,000 to $100,000 per day. Still, as a result of the accelerated schedule, Safety Boss and the big three U.S. firms will leave with less than the bonanza that they had at first anticipated. "I'm glad to see the fires out," said Ronald (Shoey) Shoemaker, 33, a member of the Safety Boss crew from Sylvan Lake, Alta. "But I'm sad I'm out of work." Jobs in Alberta's Oil Patch are scarce, Shoemaker said, adding that he had hoped to work in Kuwait until March.

The workers themselves earned from $400 to $2,000 a day, depending on experience and the danger of their assignments. For that, they endured hellish temperatures that soared to 55° C in July—and up to 480° C (900° F) outside the galvanized metal shacks that protect firefighters working near the burning wells. Oil coated everything and everyone—and the air was so thick and foul that many of the workers, generally in Kuwait on 28-day rotations, spent much of their home leaves coughing their lungs back to health.

In early discussions about the project, representatives of the three U.S. firms viewed the Canadians as upstarts, according to Michael Miller, the 47-year-old owner of Safety Boss, a company that his father, Kenneth (Smokey) Miller, founded in 1956. When Safety Boss's first contingent flew into smoke-bound Kuwait City in a lumbering C-5 transport plane on April 8, Miller said, some of the Texans laughed at his bright red fire trucks, saying that they better suited a municipal fire department. Declared Miller: "They didn't take us seriously. I was going to make sure they did." In fact, Safety Boss officials said late last week that they had capped 178 wells—about 30 per cent more, they claimed, than their closest American contender, Boots & Coots.

The red fire trucks proved useful. Firefighters trying to douse a burning well, or cool the area around it, place metal shacks housing their water cannons upwind from the fire, allowing the wind to blow the spray of oil and volatile natural gas away from them. But in the Kuwaiti desert, the winds often shift suddenly, forcing the crews to abandon their positions. Safety Boss used portable fire hoses connected to their fire wagons, which in turn were connected to water-tanker trucks—and the whole network could be moved around the site in minutes when the winds changed. When the fires proved particularly difficult, the Calgary-based company used potassium bicarbonate, a dry powder that denies fire the oxygen that it needs to burn, in order to douse the flames.

After the crews extinguished the fires, they had to cut off the oil gushing from the wells in order to recap them. The crews inserted so-called stingers, hollow devices with tapered tips, into the well. Then, they pumped mud at high pressure through the stingers into the pipes and down into the formation below, stemming the oil supply and allowing the men to apply the caps.

Still, capping wells spewing oil and natural gas was a dangerous task. After months of burning, mounds of searing coke, or carbon byproduct, often formed around the wellhead. Pools of oil continued to smoulder, and there was an ever present danger that the well could reignite around the capping crews, coated in oil, or "gooped," in Oil Patch jargon.

In July, it happened. Dwight Matson, 28, of Drayton Valley, Alta., was in an oily hole struggling with a wrench to pry a fire-damaged bolt from the wellhead. Calvert Vallet, 27, of Edmonton, was coming out of the hole when the fire relit. Declared Vallet: "I'll never forget turning back and seeing Dwight coming out of that hole with fire on his back. The look on his face, that's what I'll remember—it was sheer terror." Maurice Engman, 31, of Calgary, aimed the water cannon at Matson and put the fire out. "He saved Dwight's life," said Vallet. Matson suffered second-degree burns over 25 per cent of his body. The incident inspired another innovation: the use of a track hoe to break loose and remove a damaged wellhead instead of sending in the men.



Crewmen wrestle with a damaged wellhead: an ever present danger

As of last week, an estimated 20 people from the various firefighting companies had been injured on the project, although there were no deaths in the field since the five in April. And like soldiers in combat, the firefighting teams developed a deep mutual trust and sense of interdependence. "If you run, I'll kill you," was a common phrase, and not entirely a joke, among the firefighters.

There will likely be only one fire left burning this week, at well No. BG-118 in the Burgan oilfield. Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah will start up the machinery, and a Kuwaiti crew, including engineer Sarah Salah, the only woman to have taken part in the firefighting effort, will extinguish the well fire before an audience of Kuwaitis and foreign dignitaries.

But even as the last fires ebb, experts are still calculating the environmental impact of the Iraqi sabotage. Kuwait Oil Co. crews are expected to drain most of the crude-oil lakes. But much of the estimated 70 million barrels of oil now lying in the desert is likely to remain behind, some of it covered by ever shifting sands. Long after the firefighters return home, the scars of battle will remain seared on the desert kingdom. □

# CHIPPING AWAY

## *UPSTART RIVALS ARE BEATING IBM AND APPLE TO MARKET WITH REVOLUTIONARY NEW COMPUTERS*

Travelling light has been little more than a dream for management consultant David Gouthro. Said the businessman: "It sounds weird, but I often take tennis balls, blindfolds and modelling clay to help me in the seminars I give on management techniques." That equipment leaves little room in Gouthro's briefcase for other items, and until recently he had to do without a computer on his frequent business trips. His favorite computer maker, California-based Apple Computer Inc., did not offer a convenient, lightweight model, and Gouthro is uncomfortable with the operating systems of other manufacturers' computers. But last month, Apple finally introduced a new, lightweight so-called notebook computer that weighs only 5.1 lb. and fits into a briefcase. Gouthro has already tried a test model of the PowerBook and says that he plans to buy one, priced at about $2,595, as soon as possible. The busy Toronto executive added that the new product was long overdue. Said Gouthro: "I wish I had had it years ago."

Apple, which Steven Jobs founded in 1976 at the age of 21, quickly developed a reputation as one of the most creative and innovative companies in the industry. But it has been uncharacteristically late in introducing a notebook model. Meanwhile, competitors, including Toshiba America Information Systems Inc. of Irvine, Calif., gained a strong foothold in the market for the superlight computers. And Apple is not the only giant fighting to keep pace in an increasingly fragmented marketplace. From International Business Machine Corp. of Armonk, N.Y., once the undisputed leader among computer companies, to more recent success stories, which include Microsoft Corp. of Redmond, Wash., the entire computer industry is in turmoil. For the quarter ended Sept. 30, 1991, the industry as a whole posted an overall profit decline for the first time in its history.



PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S

*Gouthro with an Apple PowerBook: a quickening pace of technological change*

Declared Andrew Toller, an industry analyst for Montreal-based DMR Group Inc.: "Even the future of a giant like IBM is unknowable. The past 18 months have been shocking."

Such established giants as IBM and Apple are struggling to keep up with the accelerating pace of technological change. Because of the increasing use of standardized components, the large computer companies have been forced to abandon their strategy of creating unique proprietary equipment and accept open systems common to many different manufacturers. That, in turn, has allowed small computer makers to quickly copy and improve on the giants' designs. It has also led to ruthless price-cutting. As well, the industry's sales have suffered as corporations and individuals have cut their spending following last year's recession. The computer makers, however, still have to invest huge sums in product development in order to keep up with the new waves of technological wizardry. Indeed, some companies have now moved beyond notebooks and are introducing pen-based systems, which use an electronic stylus instead of a keyboard, and even smaller units that can be held in one hand.

But for the moment, the stakes are highest and the competition the most brutal in the multibillion-dollar market for personal computers. Last year, 46 per cent of worldwide computer industry revenues, which amount to approximately $200 billion, arose from sales of PCs. Analysts predict that that share will grow to 56 per cent or more by 1996. Sales of notebook computers, in turn, already represent about 10 per cent of total PC sales.

That explosive growth, barely dreamed of in 1981 when IBM introduced the first tabletop PC, is fuelled by stunning new technological strides. No longer just squat boxes confined to a desktop, with limited memory and slow responses, new PCs are smaller and much more powerful than the original IBM model. Indeed, many corporations now rely on PCs linked together in high-speed networks that mimic the functions of huge mainframes, but cost much less. And for users who insist on portability, there is now a wide selection of notebook computers, the latest incarnation of so-called laptop computers. These new, battery-run models use conventional-size keyboards and often include high-quality screens. One new IBM notebook to be introduced soon is PCradio, which uses radio signals or a cellular telephone to transmit data from remote locations to a central network. It is designed primarily for such workers as police officers or service technicians, who must send data from distant locations back to their headquarters.

At the same time, manufacturers are racing to enhance a radical new style of computer that uses an electronic stylus to transmit commands directly onto a computer screen, instead of keying information from a keyboard. Currently, such computers have only limited recognition of handwriting. But the newest models, such as those sold by GRiD Computer Corp. of Freemont, Calif., are designed for employees who must fill out large numbers of forms or collect other standardized types of information.

The spectacular rate of change has already begun to take its toll on some of the industry's most venerable companies. Apple, for one, cut the prices of its tabletop models by 30 per cent last year after suffering from competition from high-quality, low-cost models made by upstarts including Dell Computer Corp. of Austin, Texas, and Zeos International Ltd. of St. Paul, Minn. The result: Apple's sales soared but its profit margins shrank, and the company posted a loss in the second quarter of 1991—its first quarterly loss in six years. Said Randy Brophy, a product manager with the Gartner Group Inc., a Stamford, Conn.-based computer consulting firm: "Any kind of innovative technology will be profitable for a while, but basic personal computers are too much of a commodity now. Anybody can build a high-quality, low-priced model."

Overall, Brophy says that IBM's share of worldwide personal-computer sales has declined dramatically to 31.6 per cent from 49.6 per cent in 1986. Apple's share has also fallen—to 16.1 per cent from 22.6 per cent. Over the same period, Compaq Computer Corp. of Houston has doubled its market share to 11.9 per cent, and Sun Microsystems Inc. of Mountain View, Calif., which specializes in designing work stations used by engineers, has quadru-

# Business Notes

### SOUTHAM SLIMS DOWN

Southam Inc., the money-losing Toronto-based publishing conglomerate, announced plans to sell its U.S. and Canadian graphics and printing division. Southam president John Fisher said that the company has decided to sell the operations, which make up about one-third of its $1.3 billion in assets, in order to concentrate on its core newspaper business. He added that the sale is unrelated to the $35.8-million loss on $1.25 billion in revenues that the company reported for the first nine months of 1991.

### SALOMON BOUNCES BACK

In its first financial report since it was implicated in a U.S. bond-trading scandal in August, the powerful New York City-based investment bank Salomon Inc. reported a strong $95.2-million profit on $2.7 billion in total revenues. Included in the company's expenses was a special $224-million reserve that Salomon has set aside to cover legal expenses arising from the scandal.

### CHRYSLER SELLS A GEM

Financially troubled Chrysler Corp. announced that it will sell its half-interest in Diamond-Star Motors Corp., a Bloomington, Ill.-based assembly plant, to its Japanese joint-venture partner in the factory. Mitsubishi Motors Corp. will pay Chrysler $112 million for its stake. The day after the sale announcement, Chrysler reported a third-quarter loss of $92 million on $8.4 billion in revenues—a smaller shortfall than many analysts had predicted.

### INVESTORS ALERTED

Dominion Bond Rating Service Ltd. put Central Guaranty Trustco Ltd., Canada's fourth-largest trust company, with assets of $14.8 billion, on rating alert. The Toronto-based agency made the move, which sends a clear cautionary signal to investors, after George Anderson unexpectedly resigned as chairman of the Halifax-based trust company.

### CHEAP LIQUOR SOLD

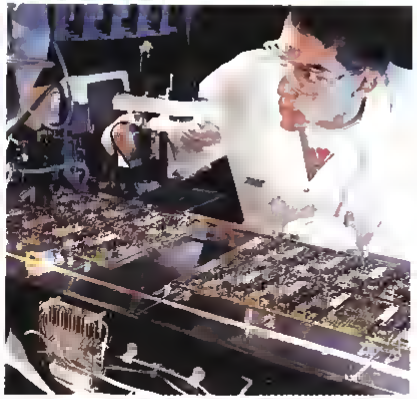
Joseph E. Seagram & Sons Inc., the U.S. subsidiary of the Montreal-based distiller Seagram Co. Ltd., sold the rights to the brand names of seven of its lower-priced, secondary brands of liquor and cordials to Old Greenwich, Conn.-based American Brands Inc. for $417 million. Edgar Bronfman Jr., Seagram's president, said that his company now intends to concentrate on its premium products. However, some analysts cautioned that consumers are becoming more reluctant to pay for high-priced alcohol.

pled its share to 11.5 per cent.

But even companies that have led the way in the past are having trouble keeping up with the needs of increasingly demanding computer buyers. Compaq, for one, started operations in 1982 and quickly developed a reputation for high-quality table- and laptop models. But last week, the company's board of directors dismissed Compaq's co-founder, Joseph R. Canion, as president and chief executive. Canion's downfall occurred two days after the company reported its first ever quarterly loss: $78.7 million on revenues of $794.5 million.

Dismissals have not been confined to the executive suite. At the same time as it announced Canion's dismissal, Compaq also said that this year it will cut 1,400 jobs, or 12 per cent of its workforce. IBM, in turn, plans to reduce its worldwide workforce of 373,800 by 20,000 this year. And Apple, which highly qualified professionals once considered a recession-proof employer, has slashed 1,200 employees from its workforce of 12,000 in the past year.

Despite the vast sums they spend on research, the established giants are falling behind their smaller rivals in many areas. IBM alone will spend about $6.5 billion on research and development this year. But it has yet to introduce a notebook computer in North America, even though sales of those computers are the fastest-growing sector of the PC market. Stan Didzbalis, a spokesman for IBM Canada, said that IBM's huge size and wide range of products have hampered its ability to respond as quickly as some of its more specialized competitors.



*Assembling IBM circuit board in Toronto: lagging*

Still, IBM remains by far the world's largest computer maker. And with profits of $904 million so far this year, Didzbalis said, the company is aggressively attempting to regain its once overwhelming lead in the PC market. Indeed, last month, IBM cut prices on its entire range of PCs by between 10 per cent and 38 per cent. But even for small, aggressive newcomers, price-cutting remains key. Dell Computer, another small, fast-growing PC manufacturer, announced in September that it will cut prices on its desktop and laptop computers by as much as 33 per cent.

At the same time, other upstarts are developing even more advanced new technologies. In addition to pen-based computers, some companies plan to introduce multimedia computers, which will integrate sound and video impulses with standard text-based information. Keeping up with those new developments is bound to cause difficulties for IBM, Apple and the other established manufacturers. But such trends are welcomed by users like consultant Gouthro, who says that he would be most comfortable with a computer that mimics one of the world's oldest methods of communication: pen and paper. For him, as for millions of others, the ultimate computer may be one that does not look, sound or feel like a computer at all.

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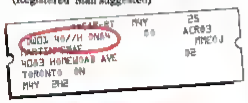
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# Signs of a relapse

*A decline in output raises new fears*



BARRY WILLIS/MACLEAN'S

*Rosen: hoping for a profitable Christmas after two years of declining sales*

Clothier Harry Rosen says that when he dreams of Christmas, visions of sleet and snow—not sugarplums—dance through his head. Rosen, 60, operates a chain of 26 mid-range menswear stores across Canada, and he says that an early cold snap is the best way to get the all-important Christmas season off to a good start. For Rosen and other struggling Canadian retailers, who have suffered from declining sales for two years, the Christmas season is going to be more critical than ever. But this year, even bad weather may not be enough to counteract a gloomy economy. Last week, Statistics Canada reported that the nation's gross domestic product shrank by 0.3 per cent in August, the first economic decline in five months. For many Canadians, that raised the bleak prospect that the nation might be sliding back into a recession. But Rosen says that he remains optimistic. He added, "An old friend of mine in the retailing business once told me that Christmas was something I'd never have to worry about. He has never been wrong yet."

Despite the economic contraction in August, many economists say that Canadians have reason to be optimistic that the economy will not go back into recession. They say that the downturn resulted from a larger-than-normal seasonal dip in automobile and housing sales, and that it was likely an aberration. Said George Vasic, president of DRI/McGraw-Hill in Toronto: "It is just a pause in a slow-motion recovery." He added that there have been a number of other positive developments since August that bode well for the economy. For one thing, the economy in the United States, which is Canada's largest export market, grew by 2.4 per cent in the third quarter, the biggest quarterly gain in two years. However, the U.S. unemployment rate rose in September by 0.1 percentage points from August, to 6.8 per cent.

In Canada, economists cite precedents indicating that the August dip is likely a passing phenomenon. In 1983, the year of the last post-recession recovery, the economy suffered two months of decline. Jeffrey Rubin, senior economist at investment dealer Wood Gundy Inc., said that output grew by 3.2 per cent in 1983, despite those monthly dips.

The latest decline in output will add to the pressure on Bank of Canada governor John Crow to ease up even further in his battle against inflation and to continue lowering interest rates. Last Thursday, the bank cut its key bank rate by 0.13 percentage points to 8.04 per cent, but it resisted market pressures to make sharper reductions. Lloyd Atkinson, chief economist for the Bank of Montreal, says that Crow "has lots of room to bring down interest rates without aggravating inflation."

But many sectors of the economy are unlikely to feel any immediate benefits from the interest-rate cuts. Toronto-based retail consultant Leonard Kubas says that consumers are reluctant to shop because they are still worried about the economy and their jobs. Unfortunately for the retailers, negative economic statistics only aggravate that problem.

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# Towers of despair

## *Canada's office-space glut is growing*

David Ferguson seems to be a man whose time has come. The 34-year-old vice-president of development at Carena Bancorp. Ltd., a Toronto-based merchant bank, specializes in attempting to rescue financially troubled real estate projects. And with developers across North America now struggling to survive a punishing commercial real estate slump, Ferguson is profiting handsomely. Office vacancy rates in most major North American cities are at or near record high levels, and landlords have been forced to offer as much as four years rent-free on 10-year leases in order to attract tenants. Ferguson has been crisscrossing the continent for the past two years, trying to obtain concessions from lenders and creditors to salvage remnants of the real estate empire that the now-defunct BCE Development Corp. of Toronto assembled during its frantic expansion of the 1980s. As well, he says that he expects that the demand for his services will continue to grow during the 1990s. Said Ferguson: "The 1990s will bring unprecedented chances to make money in real estate—far more than during the boom times of the late 1980s." He added: "The more problems, the more opportunity."

Certainly, the opportunities for bargain-hunters are multiplying rapidly. And a dramatic reduction in interest rates over the past year has lowered borrowing costs for developers and potential buyers. But so far, the low rates and free rents have failed to spark a turnaround. Few businesses are moving to larger premises, and developers are halting construction of office buildings instead of breaking ground on new projects. Industry executives and analysts say that several factors are prolonging the current slowdown. For one thing, the recession that triggered it proved to be deeper and more enduring than anticipated. As well, the building boom of the 1980s created a historic glut of office space that is still growing. At the same time, banks are making it more difficult for real estate developers to borrow money, forcing them to turn to pension funds and other new sources of capital. Said Brad Henderson, vice-president and manager of office leasing at Toronto-based realtor A. E. LePage Ltd.: "Supply and demand are completely misaligned. The amount of office space now available is far more than the market could have absorbed at the best of times."

On average, 18 per cent of the office space in major North American cities is now empty, and the downtown business districts of Canada's two largest cities, Toronto and Montreal, are particularly hard hit. In Montreal, where business executives' concerns about Quebec's political future are worsening the effects of a general economic slowdown, vacancy rates have climbed to 10.6 per cent from 8.5 per cent a year ago. In Toronto, vacancy rates in the downtown financial district have quadrupled to 16 per cent from four per cent in 1987.

In addition to the general economic downturn, commercial real estate markets in both cities have suffered from the fact that many companies have reduced the size of their head offices or moved them to less costly locations. Varity Corp., formerly Massey-Ferguson, for one, shifted its headquarters and 1,200 employees to Buffalo, N.Y., from Toronto in August to obtain cheaper rental space and to be closer to its mainly American markets. A month later, Crown Life Insurance Co. announced that it was relocating its 1,200-person head office to Regina from Toronto. Several mergers and takeovers in the brokerage and trust industries have also added to the vacancies in both Montreal and Toronto. In Vancouver, the office vacancy rate has climbed to 11.2 per cent from 9.5 per cent in mid-1990. The relatively small increase is due in part to the large influx of affluent immigrants from Hong Kong, who have a strong preference for real estate investments. That influx has strengthened property values in the city.

The need to stop work on major construction projects has been a big setback for developers. Delaying a project already under way forces a developer to extend loans needed to finance construction, while pushing back the time at which tenants will begin paying rent. Last January, however, Trizec Inc. and Markborough Properties Ltd. took the highly unusual step of delaying construction of the main 57-storey office tower in the $500-million Bay Adelaide Centre in Toronto's downtown financial district. The tower was scheduled to be completed next year. But the two partners decided to delay completion at least until



BRIAN WEISS/MACLEAN'S

***Henderson in an unoccupied building in Mississauga, Ont.: 'Supply and demand are completely misaligned'***






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ROYAL BANK

1994. Industry executives say that developers usually forge ahead with such major undertakings whatever the risk.

But even members of Toronto's billionaire Reichmann family, who in the past have snapped up properties in the middle of economic downturns, have retreated over the past year. The Reichmanns are investing much of their available resources in their $7-billion Canary Wharf development in London, which is also in the midst of a real estate downturn. Last year, the family offered to sell a 20-per-cent share in its U.S. real estate holdings. So far, however, it has been unable to find a buyer.

The jewels of the Reichmanns' U.S. real estate portfolio are the eight office buildings in Manhattan that the family bought for $371 million in 1977 during the last major real estate downturn in New York City. Those buildings were valued as high as $800 million during the real estate boom of the late 1980s. Last month, however, Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing agreed to help finance the renovation of an office building owned by the family in the city's Wall Street financial district. Li agreed to pay $65 million for a 49-per-cent stake in the 39-storey building.

The sharp decline in North American interest rates over the past year has also failed to provide much relief for developers. Harry Rannala, a real estate analyst with the Toronto-based investment dealer McLean McCarthy Ltd., says that rental rates for commercial property have fallen far more sharply than



MIKE ELDERWOOD

*Canterra Tower in Calgary: potential*

interest rates. As a result, developers are finding it harder to cover interest payments on their loans with rental income. As well, developers are suffering from the tighter lending rules that banks and trust companies have imposed over the past 12 months. Not only are the financial institutions increasingly reluctant to lend money for new real estate projects, but they are also imposing more rigid requirements on existing lines of credit.

But some civil-service pension funds are boldly stepping into the market. The Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement Board, for one, formed its own real estate division in 1989. Over the past two years, it has invested more than $1 billion in 19 office buildings across Canada. Its holdings now include the WaterPark Place complex in Toronto, formerly owned by Campeau Corp., the Canterra Tower in Calgary and several shopping centres. And Rannala, for one, says that the pension funds are now playing a pivotal role in the real estate market and could realize huge gains once a general economic upturn is under way.

So far, however, only Calgary among Canadian cities appears to have escaped the effects of the office glut. The city was especially hard hit by both the 1981 recession and the 1986 collapse in world oil prices. But real estate analysts say that because the city recovered slowly from those downturns, it had little excess office space at the beginning of the recession last year. Still, the immediate prospects for developers in Canada's other major cities appear bleak. And troubleshooters like David Ferguson are among the few people who are reaping any benefit from their difficulties.

DEIRDRE McMURDY

# A clouded crystal ball

## *Home buyers are waiting on the sidelines*

For Gary Schnarr, who owns a real estate agency in Waterloo, Ont., predicting the future of the housing market has been critical to his success during his 11-year career. But last week, Schnarr, 40, hesitated to estimate when declining housing sales in the twin cities of Kitchener and Waterloo, 100 km southwest of Toronto, will begin to pick up. "My crystal ball is really cloudy," he said. He added that during the past 18 months, normal historical patterns in the market "have flown out the window." For one thing, even a decline in mortgage interest rates over the past 17 months to 8.5 per cent from 14.75 per cent—the lowest level in 4½ years—has failed to attract a noticeable increase in home buyers. In the Kitchener-Waterloo area, only 200 homes were sold in September, down by 17 per cent from the same month in 1990. Like agents in other depressed real estate markets across Canada, Schnarr says that only clear evidence that a sustained economic recovery is under way is likely to kick-start sales. Declared Schnarr: "Low interest rates only benefit those who are confident of keeping their jobs."



BARRIE STANLEY

*Houses under construction in Vancouver: slow sales*

Across the country, sales of new homes in most major cities are also slow, and the depressed state of the housing market closely mirrors the impact of the recession. In Ontario and Quebec, which suffered most from the downturn, sales in many communities have remained steady or even declined from their severely depressed levels of a year ago.

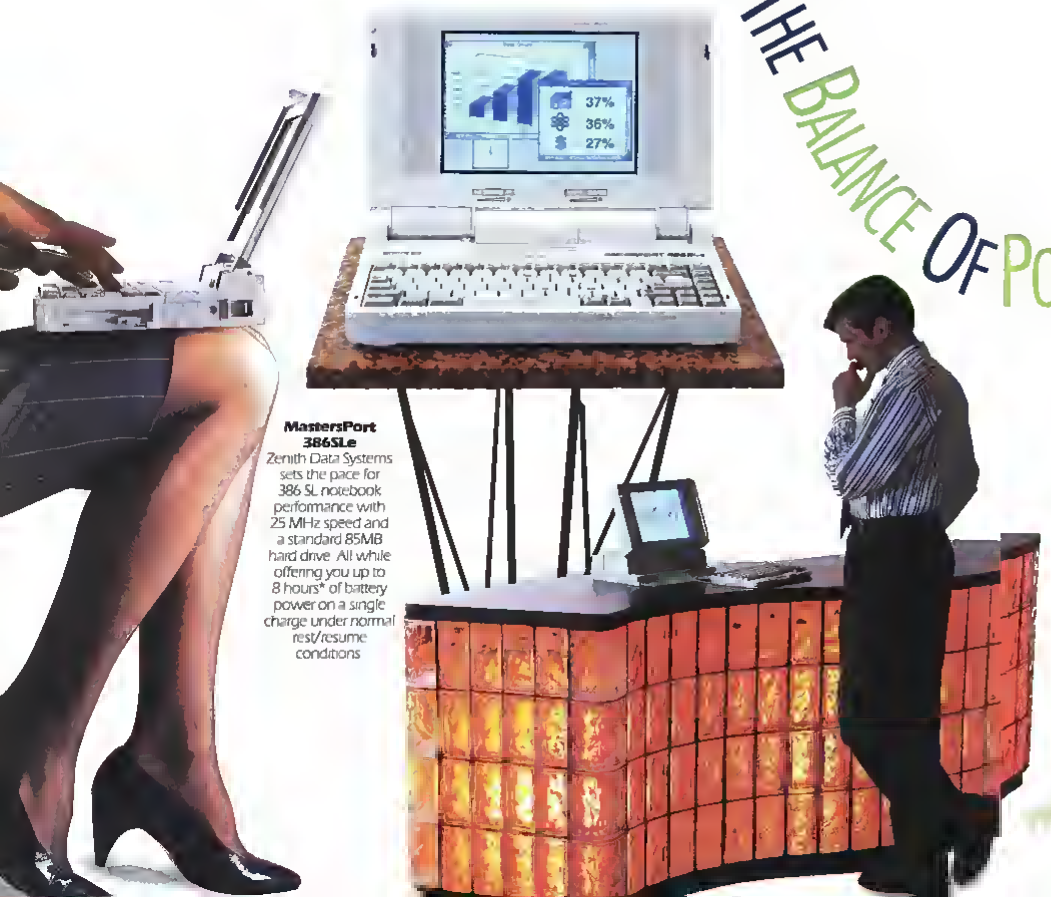
According to most real estate agents, consumers' concerns about their personal economic prospects are keeping them out of the market. Thomas Alton, president of the Toronto-based Bank of Montreal Mortgage Corp., says that low mortgage rates have primarily benefited homeowners who have renewed their mortgages. Still, Alton says that the federal government can strengthen confidence by keeping interest rates low.

For his part, Gary Reardon, a St. John's, Nfld., builder and the president of the Canadian Home Builders' Association, says that Ottawa should also lower the minimum legal down payment required to buy a house. His organization is pressing Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government to lower that minimum to five per cent of the price of a home—the same rate that existed before 1982—from the current 10 per cent. Reardon said that any increase in housing construction also benefits the economy as a whole. "When people buy new houses, they also buy fridges and stoves and so on," he said. But for the moment, for most Canadians, those kinds of purchases appear to be some way off.

BARBARA WICKENS



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# A vintage crop of business books

*BY PETER C NEWMAN*

*The sleeper of the season shows how the Old Boys network is being displaced by women reaching for influential positions*

There has been such a deluge of political tracts this autumn that some business books haven't received the attention they deserve These are a few examples

The sleeper of the season is Sherrill MacLaren's *Invisible Power The Women Who Run Canada*, which for the first time documents how the Old Boys network, which has run this country since Noah boarded his ark, is being displaced by creatively energetic women, reaching for some of the nation's most influential command posts

Darting across the country and into the epicentre of various establishments, the author personalizes women's individual and collective routes to power, not as wives or fodder for gossip columns, but as action-oriented entrepreneurs MacLaren's book is a well-written guide to how Canadian society works, who matters and why She catches beautifully the subtle differences between French and English attitudes, between ideological and applied feminism, between the old and the new rich

The book introduces important new personalities to the Canadian scene, including Vancouver's Countess Aline Dobrzensky, born to Ireland's "royal set," who, along with her aristocratic husband, Enrico, has become the doyenne of Vancouver's new Establishment. She not only owns and operates a dozen local office buildings, two ranches and a shopping centre, but also puts in regular shifts at an east-end soup kitchen and is the city's most successful fund raiser

Among many others, MacLaren makes some flattering references to Heather Reisman ("a dynamo with one of the widest networks in Canada"), the Toronto management consultant and political activist who may be the ideal leadership candidate to revive the fortunes of Ontario's Liberal party

No brief review can do justice to *Invisible Power*, but as good a summary as any is the comment overheard by Jane Heffelfinger, a successful Victoria publisher, at a corporate reception in Vancouver She saw women "whipping business cards out of their décolletages the way their grandmothers withdrew lace hankies," and overheard one husband say to another—"Have you noticed that the women are all talking business while the men are standing around looking decorative?"

Ann Shortell, who previously wrote about trust companies and Brascan, is one of the best business reporters around, and *Money Has No Country* will enhance her reputation Her new book definitively explodes many myths—among them the notion that Canada's wealthiest families have the country's best interests at heart and the idea that our private sector will ever invest adequately in research and development.

Using valid and meticulously researched case histories, Shortell demonstrates how badly we have botched our potential in world trade and missed nearly every cue to join the global economy taking shape around us. Her message is that at last Canadians are more aware of how dangerously uncompetitive we have become and now realize that if they don't quickly alter our collective and individual work ethics, this country will be totally marginalized. As a result, the book provides essential documentation in the debate about Canada's economic future—or the lack of one—which will occupy us throughout most of the 1990s

Shortell ranged the world and penetrated most Canadian boardrooms in her search for answers. Her conclusions are tough but optimistic While conducting interviews in Europe, she finds herself at the wreckage of the Berlin Wall, buys a few pieces of its remains and notes "Now I'm trying to knock a few holes in the walls Canadians have built, both to isolate ourselves within Canada and to provide some sort of psychic barrier from the big, bad world I see us all as a thin, straggling line of Canadians, stretched across the country, using whatever tools we have to tear down our barriers and build a new Canada together. By force of will, no barrier is too daunting to overcome."

Similar in intent, but very different in method, is Susan Goldenberg's *Global Pursuit* She interviewed executives at 100 large and small Canadian businesses about their global aspirations and problems Her book is less imaginative than Shortell's, but what it lacks in style and intuitive leaps, it makes up for in detail The specific attempts of each company to globalize are examined right down to what kind of customs forms are required for export sales

The real trouble, Goldenberg soon discovers, is that we really have too tiny a patent base to be serious world players. Only 0 3 per cent of the world's innovations are Canadian, compared with Japan's total of 9 9 per cent, 97 per cent of our technology is imported Sbe portrays an interesting difference between multinational companies and truly global players "In the multinational system, foreign subsidiaries operate as autonomous, distinct businesses," she writes. "By contrast, in global companies strategies are centrally co-ordinated so as to create cohesiveness and cost efficiencies, eliminate duplication, spark more rapid decision-making and build a sense of team effort,"

Goldenberg is at her best describing the savagely competitive international business climate, and makes a good case for Canadian executives to treat their entry into the global marketplace not as an extension of existing business strategies, but as a battle plan

It's a war, and we're losing it.

Very hard to pick up once you've put it down is James Fleming's *Circles of Power*, a botched attempt to identify and describe Canada's current power wielders The volume, which seems to have been based largely on old clippings, adds little new insight and no new knowledge He's also frequently wrong In his list of Vancouver's business leaders, for example, Fleming ranks stock promoter Murray Pezim ahead of Robert Wyman (chairman of B C Hydro) and leaves out the town's most influeotial lawyer-power broker, Lyall Knott

Not a business book but a wonderful tribute to one of our best writers, who died in 1990, *Hugh MacLennan's Best* revives some of the author's most evocative prose "As an essayist he has been among the world's best," notes the anthology's editor, Douglas Gibson, "writing excellent and much-quoted pieces on everything from hockey to Captain Bligh" This thoughtfully selected book does him justice.





## A changed pageant

The 45th Miss Canada pageant last week tried to place more emphasis on brains than on beauty For the first time, there was no bathing-suit competition. And **Nicole Dunsdon**, 21, a native of Summerland, B C , won out over 41 other candidates to become Miss Canada 1992 After the Toronto contest, Dunsdon, who will go on to represent Canada in the Miss Universe pageant next year, told *Maclean's*: "Miss Canada does oot have so much to do with beauty as with how we present ourselves" She added that she plans to take a year off from her studies in speech and language pathology at the University of Alberta to act as a spokesman for the sponsors of the pageant Declared Dunsdon: "I do see it as less of beauty pageant and more of a job."



BRIAN WILLER/MACLEAN'S

*Dunsdon: winning 'more of a job'*



REGINA/GAMMA-PONOPRESSE

## Prince of pop

Pop fans were able to enjoy another form of British royalty last month when **Paul McCartney** attended a charity screening in Toronto of *Get Back*, a documentary of his 1989-1990 world tour. In the movie, McCartney, who donated the screening's proceeds to the environmental group Friends of the Earth, sings many Beatles classics. He said that he now finds them less painful to play than he did in the 1970s. Added McCartney: "It was so near the Beatles breakup But it's great to do them again."

*McCartney: playing yesterday's hits*

## ALL THE WORDS AT SIX

**cbc Radio's *World at Six* celebrated its 25th anniversary last week. To commemorate the occasion, it aired a special eight-minute documentary with clips from coverage of such groundbreaking events as the first moon landing in 1969. Bob Oxley, who co-hosts the program with Alannah Campbell, attributed the show's enduring appeal to its tight, familiar mix of news and features. Declared Oxley: "Our format has remained relatively unchanged for 25 years. As someone once said, 'If you've got a Rolls-Royce, why trade it in?' "**

## A tragic tycoon

Quebec actor **Marcel Sabourin** says that he sympathizes with fallen real estate tycoon **Robert Campeau**, the man he portrays in the new TV movie tentatively titled *Campeau*. Said the energetic Sabourin, who has appeared in more than 40 movies during his 36-year career: "I respect him because he is a hard-working man What he became was astonishing." The $2-million movie, completed recently in Montreal, chronicles Campeau's life up to a doomed battle to hang on to his debt-ridden company last year. Said Sabourin, 56: "Robert Campeau is a tragic hero."

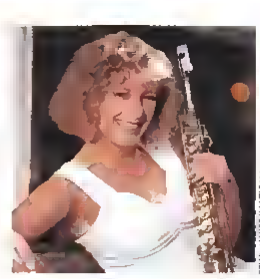


NATIONAL FILM BOARD

*Sabourin: a sympathetic actor*

## A slip that led to fame

**Jazz saxophonist Jane Bunnett says that until she was 20, she intended to be a concert pianist. But a bout of tendinitis in her hand and a trip to San Francisco, where she attended a performance by bass player Charles Mingus, convinced her to study jazz at York University in Toronto. Then, she had what she calls "a lucky break." She slipped on some wet stairs on the campus and broke her ankle. Her out-of-court settlement with the university was just enough to pay for a soprano saxophone. Bunnett and her quintet have just returned from Cuba, where she recorded her fourth album, *Spirits of Havana*. This week, they leave on a seven-city national tour. And in December, she plans to fly to Paris with husband and band member Larry Cramer, a trumpeter. Said Bunnett: "I feel so fortunate. Music is such an incredible calling card."**



BRIAN WILLER/MACLEAN'S

*Bunnett: lucky break*





# A royal Canadian sweep



*They brought warmth to a land facing a winter of discontent*

A brisk wind was blowing, the temperature stood at 6° C and 200 shivering well-wishers stood outside the passenger terminal at Ottawa's Uplands airbase. At 11 p.m., half an hour behind schedule, Prince Charles and his wife, Diana, Princess of Wales, arrived in a motorcade of about a dozen cars. Onlookers said that they expected the royal couple to walk straight to the brightly lit Canadian Forces Boeing 707 jetliner that was waiting to fly them back to London last week following their seven-day visit to Canada. But Diana clearly had other ideas. With her seemingly reluctant husband in tow, the tall, blond princess approached the crowd on the tarmac for a final, unscheduled session of royal handshaking on Canadian soil. When she and Charles finally turned to the group of dignitaries including Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who were waiting to bid the royal couple farewell, Diana stopped again—this time to embrace Norma Passaretti, a federal official who co-ordinated the tour and who was frequently at the princess's side during the previous week. Only then did the royal couple climb the steps to the aircraft, turn and wave goodbye.

As one of the world's most closely watched couples, Charles and Diana had been under the spotlight throughout their Oct. 23-to-29 Ontario tour, which included stops in Toronto, Sudbury, Kingston and Ottawa. For dedicated Canadian monarchists, the tour provided an opportunity to catch a glimpse of the heir to the British throne and his vivacious wife. And for royal-watchers, there were bonuses in the form of William, 9, and Harry, 7, the two princes who accompanied their parents and participated for the first time in an official royal tour. For thousands of other Canadians, the tour was a chance to see a pair of celebrities and gaze for a few seconds at royal wealth, glamor and beauty.

But even though they stayed for a week, made dozens of appearances and shook hands with countless Canadians, Charles and Diana revealed little about themselves as husband and wife. They did nothing to inflame or dampen the speculation about the state of their marriage, which some British experts say has become nothing more than a legal arrangement, with Charles and Diana spending most of their lives apart. During their Canadian visit, the two frequently attended separate functions. When they were together in public, they rarely exchanged a word or a smile.

Charles and Diana at times clearly showed aspects of their separate personalities. Many of those who saw Charles up close and heard him speak said that they were impressed by his sense of humor and his commitment to his chosen causes, which include education, architecture and the environment. According to many British royal-watchers, the 43-year-old prince is determined to create a useful public role for himself largely because, at 65, his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, shows no sign of giving up the throne. In a convocation address at Queen's University in Kingston, the prince ventured cautiously into Canada's constitutional debate. "I cannot help believing," he told an audience of 850 academics, students and invited guests, "that the best interests of 26 million Canadians lie in finding a satisfactory and mutually acceptable way forward as members of a federation which remains the envy of much of the world."

Diana's greatest strengths are her beauty and her charm. Almost invariably, Diana approached the outstretched hands ahead of her husband, shook more of them—and stayed longer. Almost everywhere, the response was the same. Said Marion Fray, 78, a housewife who saw the princess in Kingston: "She sits down and talks to people. I love that about her."

The princess also handled unexpected situations with humor and grace. At a senior citizens home in Kingston, a 102-year-old woman in a wheelchair had been chosen to present a bouquet before a crowd of about 200 fellow residents and guests. The woman handed the flowers to Diana, then said loudly, "I forgot what they told me to say." The princess immediately replied: "That's OK. I got the message." It was a small incident in a busy seven-day tour, but it revealed that behind the glamor and beauty, there lies a princess who is both kindly and quick-thinking—valuable commodities in the woman who could be Queen.

D'ARCY JENISH

Diana in Toronto (left) and with Charles and Lt.-Gov. Lincoln Alexander (above). spotlight

# *A rare opportunity to observe the heir to the British the and his vivacious wife*

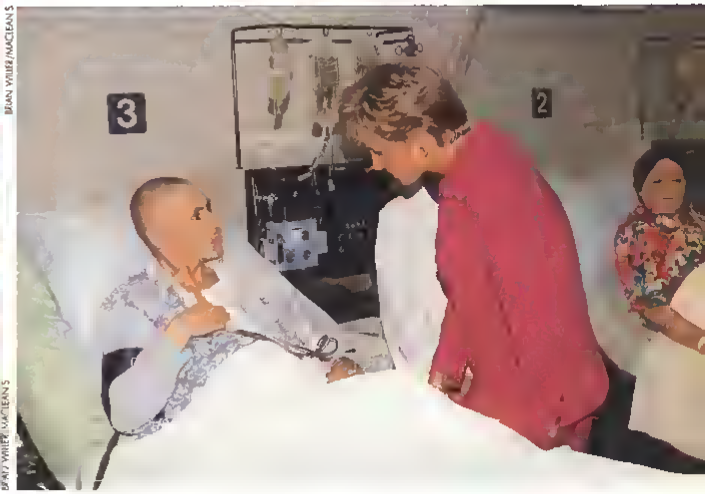








The seven-day royal tour to Ontario, Oct. 23 to 29, brought princes William, 9, and Harry, 7, to Canada for the first time. They greeted their mother, Diana, when she boarded the royal yacht Britannia, docked at a Toronto harbor pier (far left, bottom), and clambered down the gangway of the Canadian naval ship HMCS Ottawa after a tour (far left, top). Next day, Charles and Diana flew north to Sudbury, Ont., where they sat with Lt.-Gov. Alexander at the official civic welcoming ceremony (above). Later, Charles inspected a guard of honor of the Royal Canadian Dragoons (left), while Diana visited patients at the Northeastern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre (below).



*Charles advanced his selected causes: education, architecture and the environment*







Pomp and circumstance was the order of the day—and night. At Osgoode Hall in Toronto (below left), Charles was elected an honorary bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Together, the royal couple was greeted outside Toronto city hall by police officials (below) and later were guests of honor at a lavish fund-raising gala (above). Before leaving Toronto, the family attended a Sunday service at St. James Anglican Cathedral (right), where both boys joined in the post-service handshaking. In a rare break from official duties, Diana, William and Harry went sightseeing at Niagara Falls aboard the Maid of the Mist (top left).








CHRIS SCHWARZ/MACLEAN'S

## THE ROYAL TOUR 1991

*Unity is in 'the best interests of Canadians'*



CHRIS SCHWARZ/MACLEAN'S



PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S

The tour left Toronto aboard Britannia (above) for Kingston, Ont., where Charles spoke at Queen's University's convocation ceremony (top). In his address, he broke with the protocol that discourages royal visitors from involvement in internal politics, urging Canadians to preserve a federation that he called "the envy of much of the world." While still in Kingston, Diana inspected the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment (right).



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• WHEN ONLY THE FINEST WILL DO •



JON KOCSIS

## THE ROYAL TOUR 1991

*Diana reached the outstretched hands ahead of her husband*



PETER BREGG / MACLEAN'S



PETER BREGG / MACLEAN'S

The last stop on the tour was Ottawa. At the Civic Hospital's famed Heart Institute, Diane was greeted by children with flowers. Then, she visited with bedridden patients, who later proved to be outpatients brought into the empty ward for the visit. That evening, Charles and Diana dined with Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his wife, Mila (top). and, after one more session of shaking hands, Charles waved goodbye (above)


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***Food bank in Vancouver: 'the quality of our food bag has really gone down'***

**CHARITIES**

# Fighting for dollars

*The recession's bite hurts fund raisers*

When seeking money for a worthy cause, Joyce Williams has nearly always turned first to governments. As executive director of the Yellowknife Association for Community Living, which assists mentally handicapped people, Williams relies mainly on the government of the Northwest Territories and Ottawa to pay for projects, staff salaries and other expenses. A small group of loyal donors and an annual rubber-duck race that creates about $11,000 in profit provide the remaining seven per cent of the $400,000 annual budget. Every September, the association sells $5 tickets for each of the 2,500 ducks that volunteers launch into the Yellowknife River for the 1,000-yard race. (The winning duck's sponsor wins a holiday trip for two.) But the government support that Williams's organization relies on lessened in April when Ottawa cut project funding by about $123,000. Said Williams: "We have to get out and hustle for money."

With many Canadians feeling the pinch from the lingering effects of the recession, that hustle may not be enough. Indeed, across the country, organizations that rely on contributions from the public, including food banks, social assistance agencies and cultural organizations, report that fund-raising is increasingly difficult. "It's quite scary," said Valerie Everett, a representative for the Vancouver Food Bank. "The amount and quality of our food bag has really gone down."

Representatives for many of Canada's more than 63,000 registered charities say that as donations are shrinking, the need for services is increasing. The Easter Seal Society of Ontario, for one, which pays for special equipment, nursing programs, summer camps and other family-support services for 8,000 disabled children, reported a $3-million operating deficit last year. Although society officials say that they do not expect a large increase over last year's $12.2 million in revenues from public donations and modest government grants, they add that they need at least $15 million just to balance the budget. To reduce costs, officials say, the society will close down a communications institute that helped children with severe speech problems. "It breaks our heart that it has to go," said Janet Thompson-Mar, the society's director of public relations. "There is really not another service to help those kids."

For arts organizations such as the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the impact of the recession is acute. The orchestra derives about $3 million of its $15-million annual budget from private donations, and more than half from box-office revenues, royalties and artistic fees. Orchestra staff say that they have to work twice as hard this year to bring in the same amount of money, and expenses are rapidly rising. Said Maryse Forand, the symphony's director of development: "People are buying fewer tickets and giving less money."

Making the problem especially acute, says Martin Connell, a chairman of Toronto-based Conwest Exploration Co. Ltd. and of Imagine, a nationwide campaign to improve Canadians' charitable performance, is the fact that Canadians have always put charity into the government's hands. "We prefer to give out of taxes instead of our pocketbooks," said Connell. "But governments are running out of money." According to figures compiled by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, the average Canadian citizen donated only about 0.8 per cent of





pretax income to charity in 1990, the most recent year for which figures are available. In sharp contrast, the average American citizen donated 2 2 per cent of their pretax income. Canadian corporations contributed 0 9 per cent of their before-tax profits during the same period, compared with 1 7 per cent by American corporations Currently, representatives of many charitable organizations say that the modest level of Canadian donations has declined with the country's economic performance

Faced with diminishing revenue from tax dollars, nonprofit groups and agencies are taking different approaches to raising donations "The dollars are out there," said Carol Anne Esnard, vice-president of marketing for the Ottawa-based United Way of Canada, the country's largest fund-raising organization "We just need new ways to get at them." For officials at Metro United Way in Halifax, that involves making an emotional appeal. In the organization's current "Count your blessings" campaign, advertisements feature stark images of an elderly woman eating cat food, a homeless man sleeping on a park bench, and a battered child. Metro United Way workers say that the campaign, which aims to raise $4 million, is in sharp contrast with previous campaigns that centred on the good works carried out by the 51 charitable agencies affiliated with the organization Said campaign chairman Carmen Moir "We stress the needs of people over the need for money"

Charities are also turning increasingly to the business world not only for money, but also for help in getting their message to the public Last month, the Canadian Cancer Society, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and Toronto-based Kellogg Canada Inc teamed up to raise cancer awareness In addition to launching a new breakfast cereal with information about breast cancer on the box, Kellogg officials pledged to donate 50 cents from the sale of each box of cereal to breast-cancer research and education. Canadian Cancer Society officials say that attaching their cause to the cereal will supplemeot efforts to solicit donations through canvassing and special events. Said Alf Jcergensen, national director of fund-raising for the society "It's a good way to hit another target market."

Faced with growing competition for the public's contributions, charitable groups are becoming more sophisticated in packaging and selling their message. Fund raisers say that the greater availability of computers and recent innovations in software allow nonprofit organizations to carry out mass mailings, perform desktop publishing and analyse donor lists relatively cheaply Andrew Spears, the director of development for Hart House, a University of Toronto cultural and athletic centre, says that access to such equipment allows smaller organizations to compete with established charities for funds Said Spears: "It has placed extremely powerful tools in the hands of small organizations" As a result, large charities no longer have the clear advantage in putting together professional fund-raising campaigns Said the United Way's Esnard. "Every year, the competition becomes more fierce"

Still, critics say that new approaches to fund-raising will not necessarily change penny-pinching attitudes that may be deeply rooted in the Canadian experience. According to Statistics Canada figures, current federal and provincial funding for welfare and cultural services is about $150 billion a year—more than 30 times the level of private charitable donations Canadians pay higher taxes than citizens of many other countries and, according to some experts, they expect governments to take care of social, cultural and health needs as a result. "We assume that we are the kinder, gentler nation because we pay the government to provide it," said Gerard Kennedy, executive director of Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank But, said Imagine's Connell, "With a huge deficit, the easy days of tapping into a government program are over"

Still, fund raisers say that a relatively small number of rich contributors remain a lucrative source of charitable donations, especially to large, well-established charities, including major museums, university research foundations and hospitals. For such well-off donors, giving often begins in ballrooms at society galas and dinners held to raise money for prominent charities One of the oldest and most popular fund-raising events is the annual Brazilian Ball held in Toronto, which charges high-profile guests as much as $25,000 a table to mingle in a carnival atmosphere Anna Maria de Souza, the Brazilian-born socialite who created the event in 1966, says that the February ball appeared to be immune to fluctuations in the economy "We have not felt any impact," added de Souza, who raised more than $650,000 for the Toronto Symphony through this year's ball.

Despite concern about the level of private cash donations to their coffers, some fund-raising experts say that Canadians are generous with their time More than five million volunteers donate about one billion hours each year to charitable activities. As well, Canadians are sometimes more inclined to contribute clothing and groceries, rather than cash, to the needy. Kennedy said that this year, about 124,000 people a month are using the Daily Bread Food Bank, up from about 82,000 last year Last month, Kennedy's organization had to extend a drive for contributions by five days to obtain the nearly two million pounds of food required for Toronto's needy "If Canadians see a need, they can be quick to deliver," said Kennedy But in a period of sluggish economic activity and high unemployment, the cries for help are starting to outweigh the offers of assistance.

DIANE BRADY



*The United Way's Moir in Halifax: stressing the needs of people over the need for money*

**Connell: huge deficit**



PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S





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*Michael (left) and Paul Donovan: a growing pool of movie talent and expertise*

## FILMS

# An East Coast epic

*Salter Street comes into the spotlight*

The memory seemed to make Paul Donovan grimace. Sitting in his antique-laden office last week, the 37-year-old Halifax film director was reminiscing about the early days of the company that he and his producer brother Michael, 38, formed in 1979. At the time, the Donovans lived in a run-down apartment above a pornographic bookstore on downtown Salter Street. The apartment, in fact, served as the set for one of their first films, a thriller called *Siege*. "That was our low-overhead phase," recalled Paul Donovan. Now, the brothers' office is in a stately Georgian mansion in Halifax's north end. They bought the building, once owned by Jonathan McCully, a Father of Confederation, in 1990. And their latest film is a $3-million political satire called *Buried on Sunday*, which they are making with Toronto's Alliance Entertainment. Said Paul: "The film business is always precarious. But, for the first time, we feel that we are finally becoming somewhat established."

In Nova Scotia, that is a major accomplishment. Indeed, the Donovans are refuting conventional wisdom by running their film and television production company thousands of miles from Hollywood in a province that offers no tax incentives for moviemaking (only British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec do). Moreover, their work is helping to provide an unmistakable regional voice. Salter Street produces *CODCO*, the zany, popular television series featuring the Newfoundland comedy troupe of the same name. *George's Island*, a children's movie about pirates that Salter Street released last year, was judged best live action film at the 1990 Chicago International Festival of Children's Films. Now, with *Buried on Sunday*, which stars Canadian actors Paul Gross and Maury Chaykin, Salter examines the sweeping issue of Canadian unity, albeit from a particularly Atlantic perspective.

As the tale of a mythical island Solomon Gundy, where the inhabitants decide to separate from Canada and Nova Scotia, the new movie has an obvious subtext. The island's rebellious fishermen declare it a GST-free state and the world's newest nuclear power, backed up by a disabled Russian nuclear submarine that was abandoned in their harbor. Said Paul Donovan, who is shooting the film in the Halifax area: "It is basically an emotional story about a group of characters." But, he adds, "the metaphors are there."

Such an ambitious project would once have been beyond the scope of Nova Scotia's film industry. But in recent years, as the province's scenic beauty has made it a sought-after production location, Nova Scotia has acquired the pool of talent and expertise required for a full-fledged movie industry. RHI Entertainment Inc. is currently shooting *The Secret*, a made-for-television movie starring Kirk Douglas, on the province's picturesque South Shore. And several other productions are in the planning stages, including a film adaptation of Nova Scotian author Thomas Raddall's *The Nymph and the Lamp*, a classic 1950 novel about a radio operator, that may star actor Glenn Close.

The Donovans first stumbled upon moviemaking while at Dalhousie University in Halifax. There, Michael studied law and Paul physics. But a course in film appreciation that Paul took at Dalhousie changed both their lives. After graduation, Paul moved to England, where he enrolled in the London International Film School. Then, in 1979, he returned to Halifax to make his first film. By then, his brother was disillusioned with practising law. So the two raised money from investors and made *South Pacific 1942*, a fictional movie about a Canadian submarine during the Second World War. The film was a critical and financial disaster. "We don't talk about that one anymore," said Michael Donovan. Then, in 1981, they shot *Siege*. It cost $250,000 and made $1.5 million.

Since then, success has been elusive, but less and less so. In 1983, they released *Def-Con 4*, a $1.1-million post-apocalyptic science-fiction movie. It grossed more than $5.5 million, but made only a small profit. That has been the case, as well, for *George's Island*, which cost $2 million to produce. Although it was critically acclaimed, the film was poorly distributed in Canada. Still, it has been released in several foreign markets, and last month opened in Los Angeles.

The brothers say that they have learned from their experience. To limit their dependence on the country's movie-distribution system, Salter Street has branched into TV. *CODCO*, now in its fourth season, has become a mainstay for the company—even though its controversial skits have sometimes upset viewers as well as management at the CBC, which airs the show. Said Michael Donovan, who developed the series: "*CODCO*'s goal is to challenge Canadians and unsettle complacency, which is not necessarily the CBC's mandate."

Some of their upcoming work is in a much more serious vein. In February, Salter Street is scheduled to begin shooting *Life with Billy*, a feature-length docudrama about the trial of an abused housewife who kills her husband. Further down the road could be Salter Street's biggest project yet—an epic drama about the First World War battle of Passchendaele as seen by a member of the 85th Battalion of Nova Scotia Highlanders. "For now, our goal is to remain in Nova Scotia and to make films here," declared Michael Donovan. Having survived a tough first decade, Salter Street seems poised to make a distinctive mark on the East Coast film scene.

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# The travails of an era

## *A novel chronicles the Sixties generation*

HEARTS OF FLAME
*By Katherine Govier*
*(Viking, 442 pages, $27.99)*

Katherine Govier's fourth novel, *Hearts of Flame*, gets full marks for ambition. Its vision of Govier's home city of Toronto is almost Dickensian in its scope: it touches the lives of prosperous north-enders, and of the poor who sleep nightly in the city's parks and ravines. But it is also a very intimate study, concerned largely with the daily struggles of 40-year-old Blair Bowker, the single mother of a six-year-old daughter.



BRIAN WILLER/MACLEAN'S

*Govier: an ambitious work about the daily concerns of late-20th-century Canadians*

Blair works as a disc jockey at a local radio station and frets over the ambiguities of her life. Her concerns about her child's schooling or her relations with her lover may seem small when put into balance with the world's problems. But they comprise the very fabric of life for millions of Canadians at the close of the 20th century.

*Hearts of Flame* also chronicles the fate of the Sixties generation—those music-loving, mildly rebellious idealists who once intended to reform society with Flower Power and free love. Twenty years before the novel opens in 1989, Blair was a singer with Hearts of Flame, a folk band that enjoyed a brief success in Western Canada before breaking up. Now, its former members have gravitated to Toronto, where they preserve their beleaguered integrity in occupations that are not quite mainstream. Philip creates special effects for stage and film productions. Oswald is a New Age psychic. And the outrageous Ruby (whose affair with Philip destroyed their band) has become a flamboyant fashion designer. The group's members maintain sporadic, wistful contact. But when Ruby suddenly disappears, Blair is spun into a painful reassessment of their relationships.

The strength of Govier's writing—particularly in her short stories—has always been its textured faithfulness to a particular milieu. *Hearts of Flame* is at its best as a novel of record, reporting in flawless detail those corners of Toronto that Govier knows best. Her description of an upper-middle-class dinner party where the guests compare exercise routines and tiptoe through discussions of abortion and teenage sex is both painfully accurate and quite funny. Govier also brings a deep, engaging sympathy to the difficulties of single parenthood: its lonelinesss and desperation, its moments of pride and vivid love. As Blair contemplates taking a lover, her loyalty to her six-year-old daughter, Sissy, rises up to reproach her. Govier catches her struggle beautifully in a scene where mother watches daughter under a gentle fall of snow: "The girl stood, motionless, like a little pillar of salt, face to the sky. Snow was melting on her eyelids. Blair felt like the original pillar, solid with regret. She



Dr. Foth always gets the last word.



No matter what the topic, you can count on Allan Fotheringham to "fuzzify the muddification." His column on the back page is the highlight of the week for many readers of Canada's Weekly Newmagazine.

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THE WELL-INFORMED CHOICE.



could not melt. She was the tree in whose shadow Sissy had to grow."

*Hearts of Flame* also pays magnificent homage to Toronto. Knocking Toronto has long been a favorite sport among many Canadians. But as Govier writes of the jibes that Blair and Ruby toss at their adopted city—both are originally from Medicine Hat, Alta.—"Toronto-bashing united them in a rude salute to the place they were irresistibly drawn to." Yet *Hearts of Flame* goes much further than that. Blair is an inveterate walker, and as she prowls the old central parts of the city, Govier evokes those neighborhoods with an unsentimental fondness. In her eyes, they take on a beauty and civility that may surprise some, but which Torontonians themselves have long been aware of. Govier knows the uglier sides of the city as well: the grey, slushy winter evenings, the toxic rush of its traffic. But she manages to hold such images within the wider context of her affection. *Hearts of Flame* is a novel that unapologetically gives even minor streets and restaurants their actual names—a sign that Govier, like an increasing number of writers, takes open pleasure in Toronto's inexhaustible variety.

Yet despite its many strengths, the novel as a whole flounders badly. Ruby's disappearance—and the desperate search that follows—turn *Hearts of Flame* from a quiet but potentially effective novel of people and places into a crude melodrama. Govier never succeeds in making Ruby's vanishing seem important: it is simply a transparent (and unnecessary) gimmick to get the plot moving. In its wake, several characters become caricatures, while a false urgency disrupts the novel's once leisurely, but convincing, attention to detail.

Fortunately, Govier manages to salvage many scenes from the wreckage. In one extraordinary encounter, Blair finds a wounded bird outside the downtown office tower where her friend Max practises law. She carries the bird into Max's office in her cupped hands. Max is so startled by her appearance that he bleats out an expletive, while slamming down the phone on an important client. The moment catches the tragedy of men like Max perfectly. Though rich and powerful, they are so isolated in their glass office towers that they are utterly cut off from the delicate, earthy roots of life.

Blair has her faults, as well. She is indecisive, and inclined to be a passive observer. But she also has a mature ability to shoulder life's ambiguities: she is aware that she not only loves her daughter, but also is puzzled and angered by Sissy's oddly dour demeanor and asocial behavior. And most important of all, she is capable of change. At the novel's beginning, Blair is nervous about being attacked in Toronto's parks. By the end, she takes her daughter into one to spend the night among the homeless. She is, it seems, discovering a wildness and independence in herself that she formerly thought belonged only to Ruby. Such moments save *Hearts of Flame* from failure. But Govier never manages to weave them into a consistent and convincing whole.

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# Canada by choice

## *Canadian schools welcome a wave of foreign students*

It was a hurried departure for Xuehui Lin, a 29-year-old native of Guangzhou (formerly Canton) in the People's Republic of China. Lin received his student's visa for Canada on Aug. 30, just four days before he had to register for the current academic year. On Sept. 3, Lin arrived at Vancouver International Airport after a 13-hour flight from Hong Kong. But the excitement of seeing Canada for the first time tempered his fatigue as he telephoned the University of British Columbia's International House to confirm that someone would meet him. But, as Lin recalled recently, "The woman on the phone told me that no one had been sent to meet me, that I was not on the list. I was very disappointed." After taking a taxi ride from the airport to the sprawling UBC campus on the city's western edge, Lin found his way to the housing office and asked if temporary accommodations would be provided as promised. "They told me that nothing had been arranged, that I was too late," said Lin. "At that time, I wanted to buy a ticket and fly right back to Hong Kong." But Lin stayed on, joining a growing wave of students from the United States and overseas who are choosing Canadian educational institutions.

According to the Ottawa-based Canadian Bureau for International Education, as many as 85,000 foreign students may be studying at Canadian institutions this year—a 17-per-cent increase over the 1989-1990 school year. According to bureau officials, foreign students choose Canada for a variety of reasons. Some are attracted by special scholarships aimed at people from underdeveloped nations, while others may want to join relatives. Still others choose Canadian institutions because of their high reputation. But the transition to university life can be difficult at times for international students like Lin, who experience not only a new academic lifestyle, but also a new city, culture and country.

Fortunately for Lin, his problems on arrival were quickly resolved by university officials and students. Now in the third month of his master's degree program in architecture, Lin, who has undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture from the South China University of Technology in Guangzhou, is comfortably settled and says that he may not return to Hong Kong at the end of his two-year program.

Fellow student Mariko Ueno from Osaka, Japan, has definitely made up her mind—she



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says that she would like to remain in Canada. A graduate in American studies from Japan's Kyushu University—and after 10 years in middle management with Osaka's telephone company, KDD—Ueno, 32, decided to change careers and countries by applying to the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo for a visa to study at UBC this fall. After two months at UBC, where she is taking courses in economics and Spanish, Ueno is convinced that she made the right choice. "My first impression was that it was so beautiful, so green, not like Osaka," she says. "I would like to stay here, if possible."

Studying in Canada can be an expensive proposition for foreign students, depending on the university they attend—and the level at which they study. For many Americans, tuition at Canadian universities, which receive a higher proportion of government funding than many private U.S. institutions, seems relatively inexpensive. That is true even though Canadian universities (except for most in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland) charge international undergraduate students tuition fees as much as three or four times those paid by Canadians. At Montreal's McGill University, a foreign undergraduate would pay $6,960 a year in tuition fees, while a Canadian student at Harvard University would pay $17,355.

But unlike other top institutions in the country, UBC does not charge differential fees to international graduate students. University officials said that the policy was aimed at attracting high-quality students. Indeed, because of the differential, Lin chose to attend UBC over the University of Toronto and pay $1,847 in Vancouver, rather than $10,198 in Toronto.

Partly as a result of that policy, the number of international graduate students attending UBC has risen over the past decade from 605 in 1981 to 1,343 currently in a student body of 27,711. According to a study of Canadian universities published in October by Stuart Smith, a former chairman of the Science Council of Canada, during the 1989-1990 academic year about three per cent of undergraduates at Canadian universities were foreign students. Among students working on master's degrees, foreigners represented 11 per cent, and among doctoral students, 26 per cent.

For his part, Krishnaswamy Yeleswaram says that he is unsure where he will be in 1992. Now in his fourth year of graduate work in pharmaceutical science at UBC, the 29-year-old from Madras, India, says that his chances of pursuing a research career in Canada are slim. "With free trade, research centres are moving down south," Yeleswaram explained. "I would like to stay, but the job opportunities are just not here." Yeleswaram looks back fondly on his Canadian academic experiences. "By and large," he says, "I consider myself very fortunate. I haven't met anyone who is a quote, unquote, racist. I am really happy to be here." That sentiment seems to be shared by most other foreign students, as well. They also express a feeling common to university students everywhere—they miss their families.

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FILMS

# Love in gangland

*An innocent falls in with racketeers*

BILLY BATHGATE
*Directed by Robert Benton*

Hollywood unleashed a barrage of gangster movies last year, including the operatic saga of *The Godfather Part III*, the arty melodrama of *Miller's Crossing* and the black-humored grit of *Goodfellas*. Mob movies are almost always nostalgic. They tend to make an adoring fetish of doomed patriarchies—gangs of unforgiving men who wear hats and mistreat women and kill one another off in episodes of ritual violence while history passes them by. *Billy Bathgate* is different. Based on the best-selling 1989 novel by E. L. Doctorow, it explores the romance of racketeering in the 1930s. But it is not a gangster movie so much as a character drama about gangsters. The atmospheric expanse of Doctorow's novel has been distilled into a sharply evocative coming-of-age picture. The literary intelligence of the book shines through the script by Tom Stoppard. And the movie reunites director Robert Benton with actor Dustin Hoffman, who starred in Benton's Oscar-winning *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979).

At the head of a strong cast, Hoffman gives an exceptional performance in *Billy Bathgate*. He plays Dutch Schultz, a ruthless racketeer who has bought and bullied his way to the top. The story's hero is Billy (Loren Dean), an earnest youth from the Bronx who sees the gangster life as a ticket out of the working class. Insinuating himself into Schultz's gang, he serves as an eager apprentice. But the brutality of his bosses soon spoils his delusions about the glamor of crime.

Early in the story, the new recruit has to assist his boss in the elimination of a disloyal mobster named Bo (Bruce Willis), who waits for execution on a tugboat in the night, his feet sitting in a tub of hardening cement. It is a dark, sinister scene. And as Schultz dispatches Bo, he appropriates his girlfriend, Drew (Nicole Kidman), a socialite who has become a gangster's moll as a diversion from a dull marriage. Schultz makes Drew his mistress. But he often orders Billy to take care of her—and Billy takes his orders to heart.

The gang, meanwhile, shifts its operations to a small town in the country, where Schultz can stage-manage his impending trial for tax evasion. As the trial approaches, propriety demands that he keep his distance from the adulterous Drew. She spends more and more time with Billy, taking him into the woods one day with a bottle of wine. There is a cold, naked swim in a pond. And a dangerous liaison forms between the mobster's mistress and his lackey.



MYLES ARONOWITZ

*Hoffman (left), Kidman: virtue and brutality*

It is a classic triangle: a heroic youth, a villainous patriarch and a lovely woman. Amoral and unglamorous, Schultz incarnates the banality of evil. He is not very bright. He is certainly not as sophisticated as he thinks—he calls Billy his "prodigy" instead of his "protégé." And at times, his pretensions to civility give way to maniacal rage.

The violence in the movie is mercifully sparse. But when it happens, it hits like a hammer blow to the pit of the stomach. And much of the force is in the sheer power of Hoffman's performance, as when Schultz throttles an innocent fire inspector and pounds his head repeatedly into the floor.

Despite Hoffman's intensity, he does not overpower the drama. Kidman strikes a strong note of sexual insolence as Drew, who says of Schultz, "I'm not his girl, he's my gangster." Steven Hill is wonderful as an aging veteran of the numbers racket. As usual, Willis is irritating, but there is a certain pleasure in seeing him up to his knees in cement. And Dean makes Billy's hungry innocence oddly credible.

On reflection, the possibility of such a virtuous boy joining a gang of thugs begs disbelief. But beneath that conceit, there is a stark and unremitting realism to *Billy Bathgate*. Beautifully photographed on location, it is free of the antique gloss that often afflicts period movies shot on studio back lots. Benton has faithfully captured both the romance and the reality of Doctorow's lyrical prose. He has transplanted the heart of *Billy Bathgate* from the page to the screen without losing its pulse.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON




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# The Eagle soars

## *A hockey mogul justifies all his moves*

POWER PLAY THE MEMOIRS OF HOCKEY CZAR ALAN EAGLESON
*By Alan Eagleson with Scott Young*
*(McClelland & Stewart, 328 pages, $26.95)*

In hockey's long history, there has seldom been a man more controversial than the Eagle—Alan Eagleson, the combustible lawyer who has shaped and led the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) since its inception in 1967. So it comes as something of a surprise to find in his memoirs that he has never been wrong, that there is nothing he would do differently if given a second chance, that as far as the Eagle's reflections go, the Eagle is perfect.

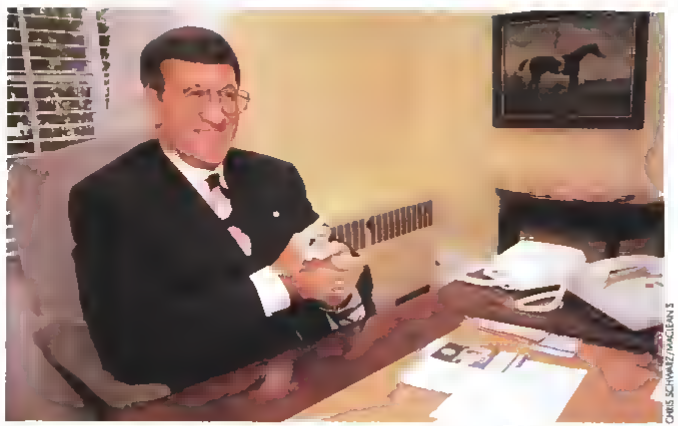
How can a guy who has been in so much hot water emerge bone dry? Did he never goof somewhere along the way? Did he always do what was best for the hockey players whose loyalty made him rich? Did the dissenters who twice tried to depose him as the NHLPA executive director *not* have any reason? Did he never slip up anywhere along the way in his business relationship with Bobby Orr, a relationship that Orr unceremoniously severed more than a decade ago? Apparently not, according to the Eagle anyway.

Eagleson, now 58, has been a mighty arresting figure in the hockey firmament for a very long time, a man who has intrigued a couple of million Canadians for nearly a quarter of a century. This is partly because he is so unlike most people's notion of what a Canadian is. None of that stalwart, reserved, self-effacing stuff for the Eagle. This is a noisy, brash, flamboyant guy dressed in expensive suits, hair stylishly cut, flat-bellied, always rushing off somewhere, grinning and waving and exuding a ton of energy, a fitness nut, loud and profane and eager.

I have known the Eagle since 1967, after he was propelled into prominence taking on Bobby Orr as a wide-eyed client, an 18-year-old from Parry Sound, Ont., damp behind the ears. Orr's father, Doug, contacted him and the Eagle parlayed that connection into what he has become, one of the power brokers of hockey, Canada's chief negotiator on the international scene. What I had hoped, opening the book written in collaboration with the accomplished writer Scott Young, was that it would provide an understanding of what drives the Eagle, what has made him run so fast for so long.

But it is an unanswered question that he says he often wonders about himself. Although he admits to an income of almost $750,000 a year, he claims that it is not the pursuit of money. "I don't think, either, that I was on a power trip," he writes. "I just felt that when something about the players came up that needed doing, and I could do it, I would do it." And, looking back, he always finds justification for this move, vindication for that one: he was often pilloried, but never wrong.

With the Eagle there are no half-measures. There is his way and there is the wrong way. At an NHLPA meeting in Florida in June of 1989, he and another Canadian player agent, Herb Pinder, had a disagreement. As a result, Eagleson told Pinder off. "From now on, I'm only talking to my friends and you aren't one of them."



CHRIS SCHWARZ/MAGLEAN'S

*Eagleson: a brash, flamboyant guy dressed in expensive suits, exuding a ton of energy*

People loyal to the Eagle are remembered warmly, those who are not are speared. Such as Darryl Sittler, the former Toronto Maple Leaf star, a loyalist, and Bill Watters, not a loyalist, a former Eagleson employee who became an agent and recently was named Leaf assistant general manager.

When Watters left Eagleson, they agreed that he would not work as an agent. But the Eagle writes that Watters and Orr tried to persuade Sittler to dump Eagleson and go with Watters. "Darryl came out of that session very confused by the untruths that had been said about me," writes the Eagle. "The next morning Darryl came to my house . . . We talked for about an hour and at the end he shook my hand, put his arm around me and said, 'Al, I'm with you and I'll stay with you.' "

For Watters, he has a patronizing jab. Dining one night with him and Punch Imlach, the Eagle recounts that Watters asked if he could try a bite of his boss's steak tartare. "Gee whiz, Al, this food is hardly even cooked," Watters is said to have muttered.

Eagleson must have agonized in deciding to relate his version of the celebrated split with Orr. For 10 years, he never spoke publicly about their rift, but here he decides to chip relentlessly at the man who elevated him from anonymity. He labels Orr a spendthrift and a whiner and, in doing so, ignores an observation by his wife, Nancy, that it would be pointless to take on a legend. But take him on he does, plodding relentlessly through most of three chapters of Orr-bashing. And after all of that, he says that he wishes Bobby would just get on with his life and not continue to nurse a grudge against the Eagle, winding up with: "Our divorce is final. I have no time or desire for recriminations."

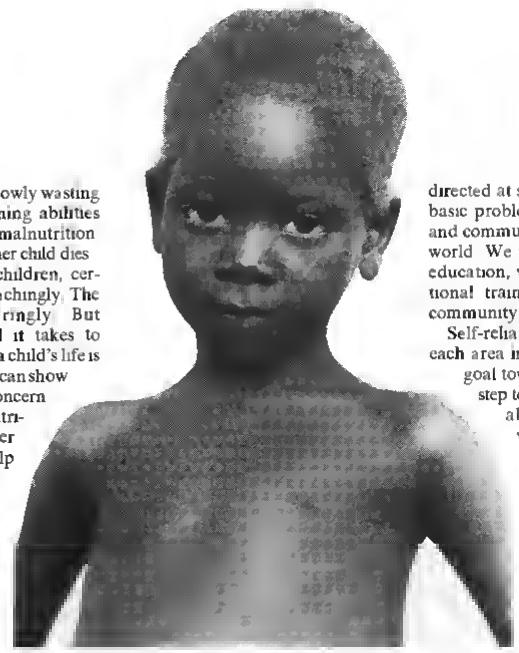
All in all, the Eagle paints himself a benevolent image—and some interpret this whitewash as being directed to the Eagle's next goal: presidency of the International Ice Hockey Federation. He finishes his book with an encomium for the current president, Guenther Sabetzki, who is 76 and not likely to stand for future election. "If he decides to step down and open the door, and I think I can contribute, then I would consider running for the job he has done so well," Eagleson writes.

Whereupon the question arises, Is the Eagle feathering his nest?

TRENT FRAYNE




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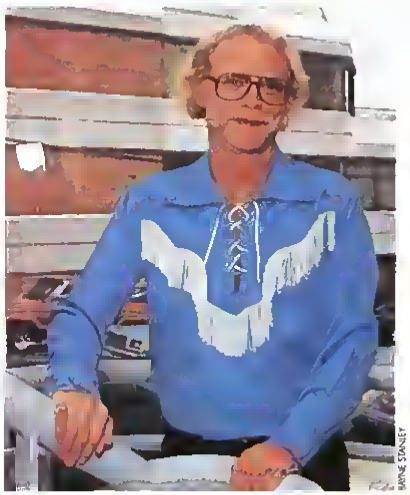
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# Patchwork prose

## *W. P. Kinsella weaves a scathing Prairie tale*

BOX SOCIALS
*By W P Kinsella*
*(HarperCollins, 222 pages, $24 95)*

There seem to be two dominant strains in W. P. Kinsella's writing. The first, including novels *Shoeless Joe* (1982)—which became the hit film *Field of Dreams* (1989)—and *The Iowa Baseball Confederacy* (1986), are nostalgia-soaked tales in which simple values, baseball and a dash of idealism combine to make unlikely dreams come true. But in several of his other more satirical works, the British Columbia author has demonstrated a knack for stirring controversy as well. In particular, many native leaders have charged that in his five popular short-story collections set on the Hobbema reserve in central Alberta, Kinsella has deliberately exploited racist and sexist stereotypes for dramatic effect. His new novel is an unusual—and not entirely successful—hybrid of the wide-eyed wonder and biting caricature of his earlier works. Switching his focus to life in a non-native northern Alberta backwater in the 1940s, *Box Socials* combines a syrupy ode to times past with an often scathing portrait of small-town small-mindedness.



*Kinsella: everyday occurrences become memorable*

The novel comprises the boyhood memories of Jamie O'Day, the only child of John and Olivia, farmers in an area of Alberta known as the Six Towns. "That designation," the narrator muses, "never showed up on a map, and almost everyone lived near a town, not in a town." Kinsella, who is 56, was raised near the northern Alberta farming community of Darwell, 60 km west of Edmonton, and *Box Socials* has the feel of an author itching to revisit an era long dead—and, perhaps, to stop and mock a few former acquaintances along the way. But although the book has moments of humor and insight, it never really makes the transition from merely frivolous to genuinely funny. And at times, when Kinsella seems to be aiming for satire, he instead serves up commentary that is downright scornful of his subjects.

Despite its shortcomings, *Box Socials* amply demonstrates Kinsella's gift for bringing to life what O'Day describes as "a potpourri of humanity." An oddball combination of farmers, shopkeepers, musicians and indigents dependent on relief—"a dirtier word than son of a bitch, and even the swear words with God's name in them," according to Jamie's parents—they fill their days with elaborate wedding parties, baseball tournaments and gossip sessions in which few who are absent are free from being slandered. Their nights they reserve for drinking a local concoction called "Heathen's Rapture, or bring-on-blindness, logging-boot-to-the-side-of-the-head home brew," and attending occasional "box socials," in which the men of the community bid for unmarked lunches prepared by the town's womenfolk—and a date with the maker of the meal that they acquire.

Describing their lives, Kinsella demonstrates a keen eye for the small details that can bring a character to life. About the arthritic pianist who accompanies the silent films playing at the local community hall, the author writes that her eyelashes were "covered in so much mascara they each looked like a giant spider leg." And, as with his Hobbema tales, Kinsella uses unbridled exaggeration to transform everyday occurrences into memorable events. Rather than letting him simply die, Kinsella writes of one character that he "pushed back from the table after a feed of partridge parts and fried turnips, unbuckled his belt and passed away."

But too often, the author crosses the border from caricature to derision—particularly in his portrayal of women. When they are not gossiping about one another, the women of the Six Towns seem to have an extremely limited range of pastimes. Those include smirking (and advising the next generation on the satisfaction that comes from it), bickering among themselves about trivial matters, and withholding sexual favors from baseball players who fail to hit home runs. When all else fails, they simply like to talk, as in the case of a character named Mrs. Bear Lundquist, "who had perfected the art of taking a long, deep breath inwards while the words were still spewing out, so that theoretically she was a perpetual talking device."

Such portraits can at times be entertaining—in part *because of* Kinsella's utter disregard for the politically correct. But they are not enough to transform what reads like a group of short stories into a substantial novel, and in the end, *Box Socials* lacks a central character or story line strong enough to make its assorted parts into a coherent whole. While his memories are chock-full of vivid detail, the young O'Day plays a mostly passive role in the novel, failing to impose any real order on the yarns he spins. Indeed, the book's various chapters resemble the patchwork quilts common in communities like the Six Towns: the whole is colorful and homey, but is manufactured from odds and ends, rather than the maker's finest cloth.

VICTOR DWYER

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**BEST-SELLER LIST**

**FICTION**

1 **Murther & Walking Spirits,** *Davies (5)*
2 **The Gates of Ivory,** *Drabble*
3 **Wilderness Tips,** *Atwood (2)*
4 **Box Socials,** *Kinsella*
5 **Scarlett,** *Ripley (1)*
6 **Needful Things,** *King (4)*
7 **Comeback,** *Francis (10)*
8 **Talking It Over,** *Barnes*
9 **Time's Arrow,** *Amis (7)*
10 **Lila,** *Pirsig (3)*

**NONFICTION**

1 **Merchant Princes,** *Newman (4)*
2 **Final Exit,** *Humphry (2)*
3 **The Betrayal of Canada,** *Hurtig (1)*
4 **Mulroney,** *Sawatsky (3)*
5 **Me: Stories of My Life,** *Hepburn (5)*
6 **People of the Pines,** *York and Pindera (6)*
7 **The Quick and the Dead,** *McQuaig (9)*
8 **Den of Thieves,** *Stewart (6)*
9 **The Popcorn Report,** *Popcorn (7)*
10 **Under Fire,** *North*

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Compiled by Brian Bethune






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COLUMN



# Third down and very long yardage

*BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM*

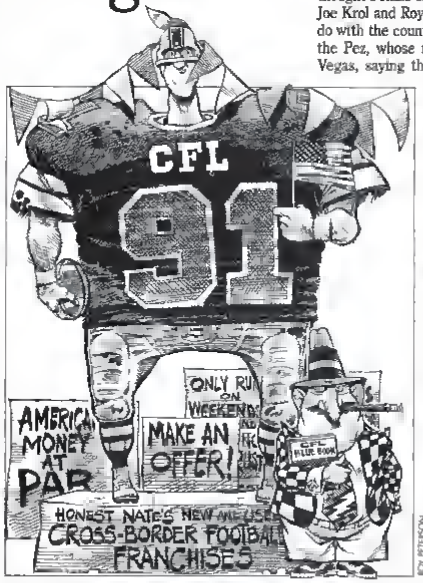
Those of us who are terminal nostalgia freaks have very firm opinions as to what has kept this tremulous country alive. The Great White North, as all thinking people know, has been bound together by the railways and the CBC. Without them, an underpopulated stretch of tundra and prairie and hostile mountains would have foundered long ago.

The Canadian nationalists, Hurtig and Newman and Walter Gordon etc., have told us all this. The literary nationalists, Atwood and Berton and the rest, have convinced us of this. Your blushing agent has always had another measure. As a jock nationalist, the yardstick of whether the country can survive under the eyebrow of Uncle Slick to our south has always been the Canadian Football League.

As long as the CFL could survive, Canada would limp through another decade—another century!—of angst. Just as baseball truly became the American pastime when the tight little sporting cabal on the eastern seaboard extended with the Brooklyn Bums going to Los Angeles and the Noo Yawk Giants going to San Francisco, Canada really only became a nation when Central Canada relinquished control of its congested ego and put National Hockey League and Canadian Football League franchises into Calgary and Edmonton and Vancouver, thus making the CPR adventure complete.

Those of us who are card-carrying jock nationalists have stuck with the CFL ever since, cherishing the burnished images of Rollie Miles and Johnny Bright and Sam Etcheverry and Hal Patterson, not to mention Frank Tripucka and Annis Stukus, the Loquacious Lithuanian, who used to kick field goals for the Edmonton Eskimos without a helmet, wearing a wristwatch, and after becoming the first disastrous coach of the disastrous B.C. Lions, is still talking, nonstop, the last we heard, on a Vancouver talk station.

For the first time, this being 1991 and the year of humor—meaning Brian Mulroney as secretary general of the United Nations—the ardor has begun to flag. This would be the year when the salvation of the nation (the CFL being the binding force) surrendered to the American elephant always hovering over the mouse.




The first sign of warning was when the beloved Lions of Bennett Columbia were rescued from the poorhouse by one Murray Pezim, a reject from even the worst Damon Runyon scenarios. When the mother of all wheeler-dealers on the Vancouver Stock Exchange is required to rescue B.C. pride, one knows we are in trouble.

This was followed—swiftly if inevitably—by the Toronto Argonauts (denizens of a purported world-class city) having to reach for succor all the way to Los Angeles for a savior by name of Bruce McNall, the man who plunged all Alberta into despair by buying Wayne Gretzky.

The fact that the richest tycoons in Canada's richest city would not touch the Argos with a 10-foot cellular phone, leaving the steroid-filled linemen to a coin dealer from La-La Land, tells you more than you want to know about our athletic equivalent of the CBC.

There is worse to come. The Ottawa Rough Riders (an oxymoron in itself) are bankrupt among the most tightfisted citizens in the land—all being secure with lifetime incomes—and sold to one Bernard Gheberman, who is very big in Detroit real estate.

The latest American to buy into what's left of our jock pride immediately appoints as club president his 23-year-old son, Lonie, whose previous business experience was on a skateboard. Young Gheberman immediately endeared himself to the locals by getting hooked up with one of the club's cheerleaders.

All this is very cheering to those of us who thought Fritzie Hanson and Bibbles Bawel and Joe Krol and Royal Copeland had something to do with the country growing up. Now we have the Pez, whose idea of a fun weekend is Las Vegas, saying the only salvation to the CFL's survival is to expand into the United States. The Portland Ducks? The Kalamazoo Kazoos? The man is a statesman of sweat.

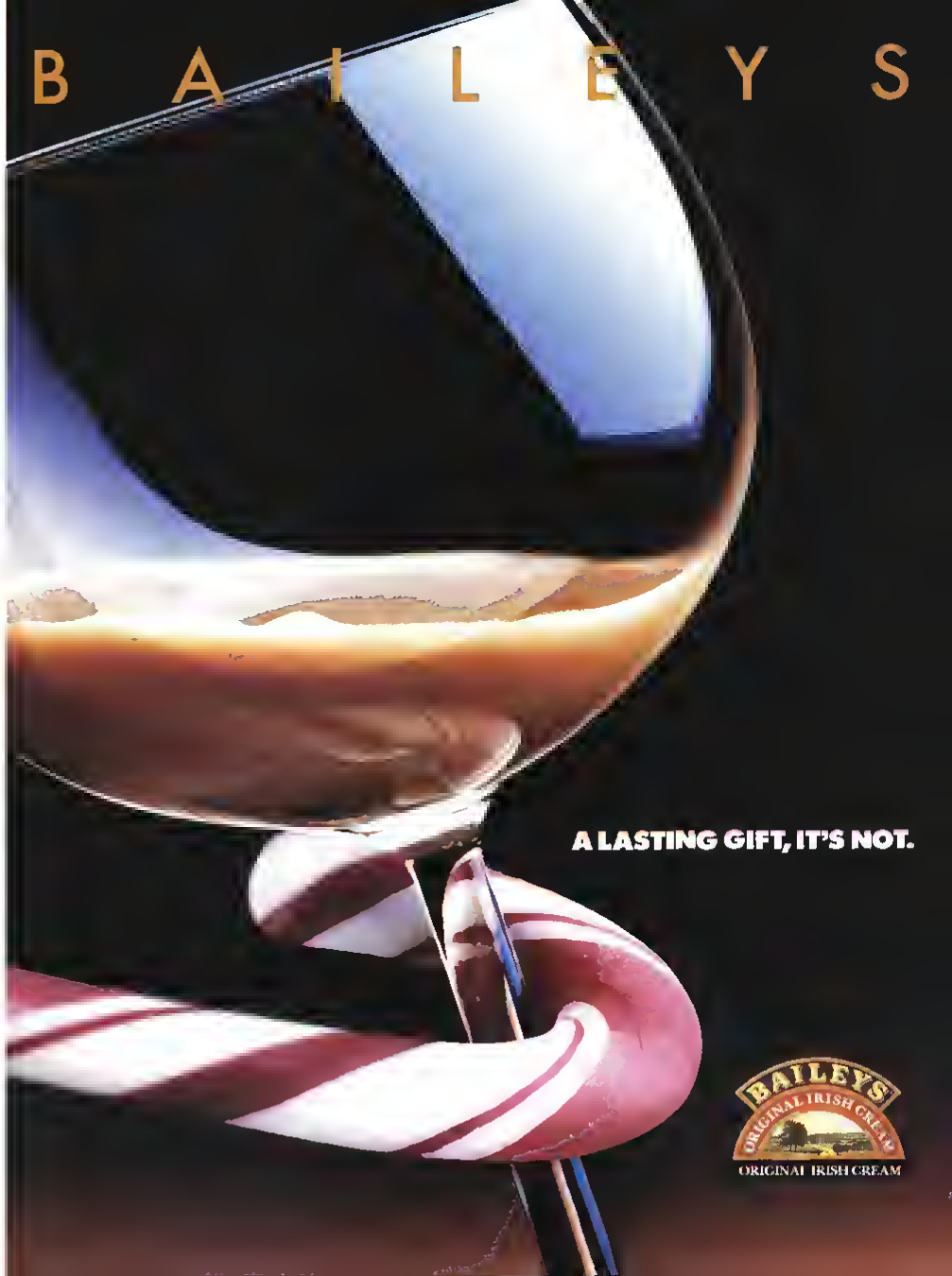
We have the aforementioned Bruce McNall, who made his millions in coin collecting and made Gretzky into an instant celebrity in the Hollywood environs of his hockey club. Having struck gold once, he neglected to notice that Gretzky, on ice, controls the puck as a magnet. In an attempt to duplicate lightning he has signed for some $18 million a quicksilver college dropout called Rocket Ismail, who as a kick returner/wide receiver touches the ball perhaps six times a game.

The most exciting player in the CFL in fact is Doug Flutie of the British Columbia Lions, who will take them to the Winterpeg Grey Cup in late November and plays the Canadian game the way she is supposed to be played, wide field, deep end zone and all.

Bruce McNall's theory apparently is to have co-owner and fat comedian John Candy—who weighs almost as much as McNall—dance on the sidelines, while his $18-million flash stands about hoping to see the ball now and then. There was even the ludicrous McNall venture—until defeated by fan votes—to junk the traditional Argonaut "Double Blue" uniforms, derived from Oxford and Cambridge colors, for something apparently more trendable by Laguna Beach standards.

There are lessons to be learned by all this, as there always are by perusal of this back-page space. The Yankophiles who populate the PMO have long ago sold out the patrimony of this land via their slavering adherence to another culture. When they sell out our jockstraps, they are seriously in trouble.





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